

**LATE BRONZE AGE AND IRON AGE POTTERY IN THE
SHETLAND ISLES: A SYNOPSIS OF DESIGN,
CONSTRUCTION METHODS AND TYPOLOGICAL TRENDS**

Jennifer Murray

**A Thesis Submitted for the Degree of MPhil
at the
University of St Andrews**



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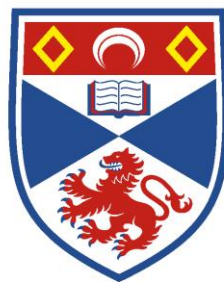
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**Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery in the
Shetland Isles: a synopsis of design,
construction methods and typological trends**

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University of
St Andrews

This thesis is submitted in partial fulfilment for the degree of

Master of Philosophy

at the

University of St Andrews

19th July 2016

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Synopsis

Within the Shetland Museum's archaeological collection are many thousands of pre-historic pottery sherds. There are also many stray finds brought into the museum by members of the public who have come across eroding prehistoric sites.

The Shetland pottery collection has never been studied as a whole; pottery assemblages were examined at the time of their excavation, and have not been reviewed since. A large portion of the collection has never been investigated. Recent archaeological excavations in Shetland, including Old Scatness, Bayanne and Burland, have provided scientific dating of contexts containing pottery.

This study has reviewed eight Late Bronze Age and Iron Age assemblages. Diagnostic sherds from each site have been analysed using a specific data set offering a collective narrative from across the Islands. Comparing the findings of this study with examples from scientifically dated sites, the analysis has highlighted obvious trends in pottery manufacture and design during both periods.

Many outstanding questions have been answered, including revised dates for unpublished sites, Greista and Ness of Sound, which were excavated in the 1970s. Many of Shetland Museum's 'stray finds', re-assessed here are now better understood, and new information added to the Museum's database.

This study has provided Shetland Museum's first digital reference collection of the Island's late prehistoric pottery assemblages. The ultimate objective of this research is to make this information available within Shetland Museum's website, offering an online resource for a worldwide audience, enabling the Museum to offer one of its fundamental functions as a public service; making the collection accessible to its owners, the community.

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All photographs were taken by the author unless stated otherwise.

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Chapter One: Shetland's Prehistoric Pottery

Pottery was the first synthetic material humans created combining the four elements identified by the Greeks; earth, water, fire and air (Rice 2005: 3).

1.1 Introduction

Much has been written about Shetland's prehistoric pottery (Fojut 1998, MacSween 1995, 1998, 1999, 2014a-c; Cracknell & Ballin Smith 1979, 1983, 1985, 2005; Downes 2000; Henshall 1961, 1962; Dalland & MacSween 1999; Brown 2010, 2014, 2015) but there is still much to write. Evidence of the Islands' earliest known settlers has recently been uncovered; a shell midden at West Voe in Sumburgh contained four sherds of pottery, two of which were found to have soot deposits on their external surfaces (Melton 2008: 31). Radiocarbon dates from a fragment of bird-bone overlying the pottery sherds show people were using pots for cooking at West Voe around 3710-3530BC (*cal.* 95.4%, GU-13836), around the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition (*ibid*). Analysis showed these four tiny fragments were made from local clay (Nigel Melton, pers. comm.). These sherds are the beginning of a fascinating story of Shetland pottery.



Fig. 1

Shetland's earliest pottery to date, from West Voe.

Ceramics comes from the Greek word *κεραμικός*, meaning both the material used to create the pot and the work of the potter (Thomas 1973: 6; Rice 2005: 3). Pottery first appears in the archaeological record in Britain around 4000BC, a technology that developed through interaction and communication with continental groups from Europe (Gibson 2011.70; Megaw & Simpson 1979: 78). Its introduction appears to coincide with the adoption of farming, a new way of life that spread through Europe

from the eastern Mediterranean. The growing of crops and the rearing of domestic animals was adopted by indigenous populations – this change is termed the Neolithic period and sees the start of a settled way of agricultural life following the hunter-gatherer or Mesolithic period (Gibson 2011: 69). The adoption of farming with its ceramic tradition appears to have spread quickly across Britain, reaching the country's most northerly region around 3500BC (Megaw & Simpson 1979: 78). Pottery, potters clay and charcoal from a Neolithic site at Modesty, Shetland, have been radiocarbon dated to 3500-3119 BC (*cal.* SUERC-37997 – Sheridan 2011: 6). For a brief history of British pottery see Appendix 1.

Pottery normally survives well in the archaeological record. Once clay is fired to ceramic, it will survive indefinitely in an unaltered state unless it is in waterlogged conditions or suffers accidental or deliberate breakage. As noted by pottery expert Gwilym Thomas, each age leaves behind not only its everyday pots but the thoughts and marks of the population who created them (1973: 6). While excavated assemblages may contain thousands of broken sherds, finding the fragment that bears the potter's fingerprints can stop you in your tracks; these impressions offer us a direct link to the fingertips of our prehistoric ancestors (Fig. 2). Each small sherd has a story to tell. For the reasons why it is important to study pottery see Appendix 2.



Fig. 2

In touch with your ancestors! Pottery offers a unique opportunity to place your fingertips in the exact place the potter placed theirs thousands of years ago. (Middle Iron Age sherd from Clickhimin)

Within the Shetland Museum's archaeological collection are many thousands of pottery sherds. These include numerous excavation assemblages ranging from the Neolithic period to the medieval era. There are also many stray-finds brought into the

museum by members of the public who have found eroding prehistoric sites, sometimes in a field or on the shore line.

1.2 Aims and objectives of the research

The aims of this research are to establish a pottery register; a chronological catalogue of Shetland's Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery. This will offer a working register for future researchers and museum staff to assist in the identification of prehistoric pottery. This catalogue will contain detailed information about diagnostic sherds from various excavated sites as well as detailed photographs offering an easily accessible manual.

Aims:

- Produce an overview of Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery in Shetland, looking at the morphology of the Island's collection, including fabrics used, form and design.
- Reassess three assemblages that were donated to Shetland museum decades ago which remain unpublished, to see if comparisons with newly excavated material can add to the pottery narrative within the region.
- Explore the possibilities of developing an overarching classification system.
- Develop a catalogue and digital reference collection for curators and researchers which will ease the process of identification.

These aims will be achieved by re-evaluating eight Late Bronze Age and Iron Age pottery assemblages held within the Museum collection. Some assemblages have been in the museum for years and have not been studied since they were excavated and initial reports written. It is important as museum professionals to research collections and re-evaluate them as modern and scientific methods advance, offering us the ability to understand more fully, the stories they tell. This is especially apt for archaeological collections as scientists and scholars constantly strive to deepen their understanding of prehistoric communities. New research is significant in raising the profile of a collection and in turn the museum's reputation, raising staff morale and encouraging more visitors (Pearce 1990: 125). The Museum Association stipulates the importance of this research in its Code of Ethics. It states:

'All those who work for or govern museums should ensure they:

Maintain, as far as possible, records and material so that the evidence on which research is based can be re-examined and verified independently.' (MA, Code of Ethics, 2008: 9.2, 20)

This study will help fulfil a duty to keep collections updated, by re-assessing older assemblages, comparing the pottery they contain with newly excavated and dated sites. Museum specialist, Susan Pearce, describes re-evaluation of material culture as 'pure' or academic research, suggesting this type of research offers new insights into the collection by either presenting new knowledge or fusing existing information with fresh interpretations (1990:123,125).

Eight pottery assemblages from sites around Shetland have been identified for re-assessment (see Map, Fig. 3). These include sites dated to the Late Bronze Age and Iron Age in the hope of gaining a much clearer understanding of Shetland's prehistoric ceramic history.

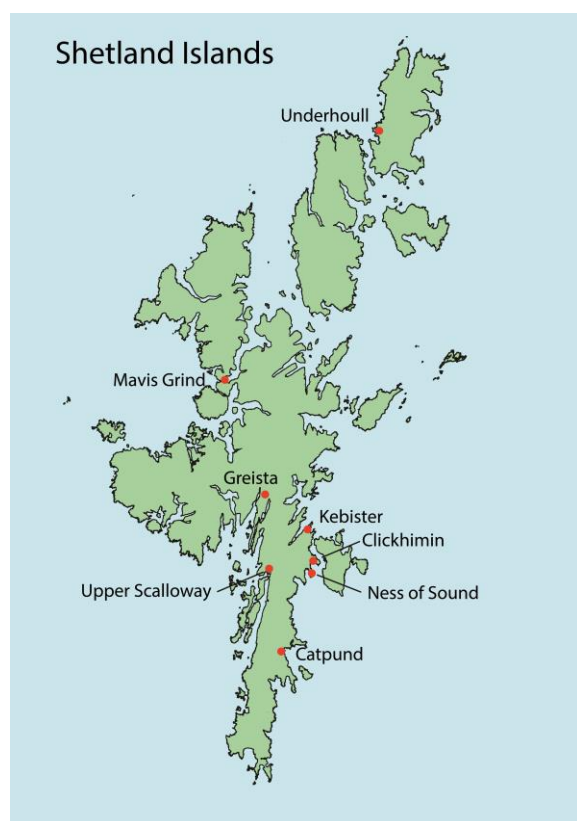


Fig. 3

Shetland map showing the excavated sites that have produced pottery assemblages, reviewed in this study.

The current analysis of Shetland Museum assemblages will detail key forms, fabrics and ornamentation of the period (Tables 2-4 and Glossary of Terms). High-resolution

photographs document each sherd examined. The pottery from excavations done many years ago has often been approximately dated but new sites such as Old Scatness offer securely dated pottery collections that can be used to provide typological and chronological parallels. Analysis will include a detailed re-examination of the Clickhimin assemblage, a broch site which was excavated in the late 19th and 20th century.

Objectives:

- Undertake a review of existing literature to identify key sites and ceramic types.
- Undertake a review our pottery collections, to fill a gap in our knowledge of excavated assemblages within the Shetland Museum's collection.
- Complete a reappraisal of material from older excavated sites which include unpublished assemblages held within Shetland Museum.
- Produce a working document and digital catalogue for future reference on the Museum's website.

Each assemblage has its own story to tell about that particular site, some of which were excavated decades ago, so it is possible to combine their narrative to create a detailed picture of pottery styles and construction during the late Bronze Age and Iron Age period throughout the region. The ultimate objective of this research is to make this information available within Shetland Museum's website, offering an online resource for a worldwide audience, enabling the Museum to offer one of its fundamental functions as a public service; making the collection accessible to its owners, the community.

1.3 The study of pottery and terminology

Archaeology has been built on a foundation of pot sherds (Laing 2014: 6)

The recognition and classification of prehistoric ceramics was pioneered in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (PCRG 2010: 2). By the early 1900s Neolithic and Bronze Age pottery had been identified and published (Smith 1910, Abercromby 1912). The classifications presented by these authors shaped the foundation of chronological studies for the future. During the following decades studies were dominated by the theory that new forms of ceramics were brought into Britain – *the invasion hypothesis* – but by the 1960s, continental affinity narratives were gaining

less credibility as indigenous chronology and sequences were becoming increasingly obvious (PCRG 2010: 2).

1.3.1 Pottery manufacture

Clay is composed of very small particles of ground rock which can be worked with little preparation, the water content enabling its plasticity to allow potting to begin. If the texture is too fine, non-clay inclusions can be added to reduce the plasticity making it easier to work (Gibson 2011: 35-36; Laing 2014: 10; Ellis 2014: 210-211). Inclusions include *grog* or crushed pottery which has previously been fired, sand and other crushed rocks, and organic materials (see below).

1.3.2 Inclusions

An inclusion or *temper*, added to clay, is done for two reasons.

- If the primary clay is too fine-grained other material can be added to increase its malleability enabling it to be formed into the required shape more easily.
- Inclusions are often added to the clay as *openers*. These are deliberately added to enable the water content of the clay to escape during the drying and firing process. Gibson notes that during firing, openers provide escape corridors at their junction with the clay body for the water to escape as steam (2011: 37).

Pottery inclusions or tempers are an important tool for pottery identification and distribution. Tempers include crushed rock of all types especially quartz, steatite, granite and felsite, and also organic matter such as chopped grass, straw or grog (broken pottery). A regional trend within Shetland's assemblages is the use of steatite as a tempering agent. Vessels found in Toft's Ness, Orkney, with steatite tempering, highlight interaction between the island groups (Dockrill *et al*, 2007: 267; Hingley 1992: 21).



Fig. 4

This Iron Age rim sherd from Clickhimin (CLN 7670) shows minute holes left in the fabric when grass tempering is burned out during firing, enabling the water in the clay to evaporate.



Fig. 5

Large inclusions of steatite are noted in this highly tempered body sherd (HD 1621) from Benie Hoos, Whalsay.

1.3.3 Decoration and surface treatments

Study of the decorative motifs and styles of pottery, whether expressed in painting or plastic decoration ... has always yielded insights into the life-ways of a people as well as their aesthetic perceptions and ideological systems (Rice 2005: 25).

The decoration of a vessel offers an insight into the style of the period and whether that was a regional form or a shared artistic tradition within communities and regions. These are important elements in creating a stylistic profile of prehistoric ceramics, which can be vital in pottery classification and typology.

Not all decoration should be classed as ornamentation though, as some surface treatments are functional rather than aesthetic; this can be roughened, textured or 'rusticated' to aid handling of the pot, helping to reduce the risk of slippage. This interpretation is strengthened by the fact that rusticated vessels are more likely to be found in domestic assemblages where vessels will be used for transportation of

foodstuffs and cooking; the rough surface offering a better grip (Gibson 2011: 53; Rice 2005: 138). Aesthetic decoration is common throughout prehistory and this embellishment is noted in various forms:

- **Incisions** – this is the most common form of surface treatment. Linear designs and patterns are incised or cut into the surface of the clay using various tools, when the clay has reached the leather hard stage and before firing. This is sometimes noted as ‘tooling’ the clay. Implements used include shells, bone, sharp stones or twigs (Gibson 2011: 55-58).



Fig. 6

Incised decoration on a body sherd (HD 922) from a Bronze Age dwelling at Ness of Gruting.

- **Impressions** – this technique involves pressing an object into the surface of the clay while it is still plastic. Impressions can be achieved by any type of object including combs, bone, reeds, cords, string, fingernails and finger tips. Impressed decoration is more prevalent during the Later Neolithic and early Bronze Age periods. Twisted cord impressions are most common and appear in the archaeological record around 3000 BC, going out of fashion by 1200 BC (Gibson 2011: 59). Similarly, ‘whipped-cord’ technique is achieved by wrapping cord around a stick then impressing the wet clay. Seed impressions are much rarer and may be accidental rather than intentional (*ibid*).



Fig. 7

A Neolithic rim sherd from Stanydale (X. EO 784) showing impressions made by a small bone, reed or birds feather.

- **Stab and Drag** – this form of decoration is a cross between an incision and an impression where a tool is stabbed into the wet clay then dragged through to create a design.
- **Plastic decoration** – the surface of the vessel is enhanced with the application of pellets or strips of clay producing ‘cordons’ or bosses that stand proud of the surface of the clay. Raised cordons can also be achieved by pinching the clay up from the surface to produce elevated ridges (Gibson 2011: 63).
- **Burnishing and smoothing** – a surface decoration that is both decorative and functional, giving the vessel a smooth polished surface. This gives a good visual appearance but also helps the permeability of the pot in strengthening the bonding of the coils by compressing the surface. Burnishing is achieved by rubbing the exterior of the vessel before firing with a smooth beach pebble or other tool. Smoothing of the vessel surface can be achieved with a softer medium such as cloth, leather or a handful of grass (*ibid*: 65; Orton *et al* 2011: 137).
- **Slip** – a suspension of clay and water (slip or wash) that coats the entire vessel surface, often changing its colour; it is applied before firing. This can be achieved by dipping the whole vessel into the slip to give a uniform coverage, or applied to the surface of the pot using a cloth, grass or animal fur (Rice 2005: 150). The slip could also be poured into the pot if the inside is to

be coloured. Slipping also covers any surface imperfections and is identified as a different colour to the rest of the vessel (*ibid*).

Variations in decoration will be noted during this study as these attributes can be applied to build a chronological picture over many centuries. Fashions change and this can be tracked as pottery trends in decoration and pot morphology are recorded. Decoration, the fabrics used, vessel shape and variation in rim types are the building blocks of a comprehensive typology, and will be the basis of this study. How these varied characteristics of Shetland's pottery are analysed will be discussed in the following chapter.

Chapter 2

2.1 What can we learn from Shetland's Pottery?

A learner's task and a museum's task are identical: to open the world that flows beyond the museums captivity – and the minds own captivity – in the continuous unfolding situations of experience. (Genoways 2006: 11)

Excavated assemblages have been examined in the past by individual experts, but the Shetland pottery collection has never been studied as a whole before. Recent discoveries from Old Scatness broch have offered us a new insight into the chronology of Shetland's Iron Age pottery but a large portion of the museum collection was accessioned decades ago and has not been investigated since discovery. This large collection of sherds and whole vessels should be re-evaluated now that securely dated examples are available for comparison. This includes the many stray-finds held by Shetland Museum. The parameters of the current study will cover the period from the Late Bronze Age through to the Late Iron Age/Pictish phase, the last indigenous populations before Viking incursions in the 9th century AD. Viking pottery, of which there is a growing collection, is excluded from this thesis. From this point in the thesis the following abbreviations will be used: BA – Bronze Age; EBA – Early Bronze Age; MBA – Middle Bronze Age; LBA – Late Bronze Age; IA – Iron Age, including EIA – Early Iron Age; MIA Middle Iron Age; LIA – Late Iron Age.

This study will not include collections from the Early Neolithic to Mid-Bronze Age period as these assemblages are currently being examined by Owain Mason (PhD candidate, Edinburgh University), examining the chronology and development of early-prehistoric ceramics in Shetland (Mason, forthcoming). By combining our research we will create a catalogue of Shetland pottery which we will endeavour to publish in the future.

Being a curator at Shetland Museum, I am often asked by visiting archaeologists if we have a catalogue of Shetland pottery for referral. This thesis will go some way to resolving the absence of such a working register and database. The digitised catalogue will create a menu of diagnostic sherds that can be accessed for

comparison and for pottery identification. I hope this study will provide incentive for the future study and dating of Shetland's LBA and IA pottery.

Stray-finds of prehistoric pottery are often brought into the museum for identification. These are notoriously difficult to date, as single sherds often do not offer diagnostic features other than fabric. A site visit can offer other clues to the era uncovered, especially at sites revealed due to coastal erosion. A pottery register will help pinpoint other pottery with comparable features and distribution. Difficulties lie with the large multi-period sites, such as Clickhimin and Jarlshof, which were excavated in the late 19th and early 20th centuries (Irvine 1866, Bruce 1907, Hamilton 1956, Hamilton 1968). These earliest excavations were undertaken employing the standards of the period by archaeologists who left important stratigraphy unrecorded or un-interpreted. A similar picture emerges in Orkney as noted by Roy Towers, when he undertook a review of three long-curated Orkney IA assemblages, a problem created by what he terms the 'pick and shovel of early curiosity' (Towers 2010: 33). This has resulted in confusion over the layers and contexts from which pottery has been uncovered. The problem of stratigraphy at Clickhimin will be discussed in detail below.

The context (including the layers from which pottery is recovered), is vital for the secure dating of pottery. With incomplete records, confusion can arise. For example, pottery sherds uncovered close to the floor of a building may have been deposited at different times, and could be:

- from the primary construction and use of the building,
- from a later reuse of the building,
- earlier than the construction of the building, derived from midden infill from an earlier phase.

Residual pottery, especially within midden material, can result in stratigraphic distortions. Described by pottery specialist, Steven Willis, as the Achilles Heel of ceramic study, residuality he suggests 'may not only confuse dating but also obscure and distort other trends in pottery...this area [residuality] is one of the greatest challenges facing later prehistoric ceramic studies in the years ahead' (2002: 17).

Modern excavation techniques, with methodical and stratigraphic recording of each phase identified, has done much to resolve such issues, but sites such as Clickhimin, excavated many years ago, remain problematic as recently highlighted by Brian Smith (2015).

Previous studies undertaken on the identification of Shetland pottery fabric have uncovered other discrepancies. Thick-walled steatite tempered vessels (similar to vessels found at Jarlshof) were formerly believed to be pre-Iron Age, but a large group of vessels with similar morphology were found in the EIA and MIA layers at Kebister, suggesting the style and manufacture persisted for longer than previously thought (Owen & Lowe 1999: 181, Hamilton 1956: 16, 21, Lamb 2010: 141). Rice notes, when discussing continuity of pottery systems, that ‘ceramics are surprisingly unresponsive to changing social circumstances’ (1987: 459-460). In creating a workable chronological sequence these inconsistencies have to be taken into account and it is acknowledged that some discrepancies may never be resolved. As Lamb emphasises, problems with ceramic sequences are not unique to Shetland (2010: 141).

Numerous archaeologists who have excavated in Shetland have commented on their frustration at the absence of a pottery sequence for the islands (Whittle *et al* 1986; Fojut 1998; Dalland & MacSween 1998; Downes & Lamb 2000; Ballin Smith 2006; Brown 2015). Ballin Smith acknowledges the problems of creating such a sequence including the lack of datable material, large numbers of sherds that have no diagnostic features and the problem of redeposited sherds in multi-period settlement (2005.35). These difficulties will set challenges in any attempt to define a chronological sequence of pottery typology, but the current study will identify trends in fabric, rim types and decoration in various excavated assemblages throughout the islands, offering a new and holistic overview, adding a wider narrative to such a process.

2.2 Methodology

Before any new research is undertaken it is imperative that a review of previous studies and knowledge of the subject is undertaken. A literature review of published Shetland material is therefore crucial to further our understanding of what has been examined and scientifically dated in the past. This will offer a baseline from which to

work and will support the creation of a meaningful chronology of the Shetland collection (see Chapter 3). Much has changed in archaeology over the past eight decades, especially with regard to innovative dating methods and excavation techniques, and it will be important to reassess the pottery collections from earlier excavations.

Reappraisal of older pottery assemblages, curated in local museums, can add much to the ceramic narrative of the North Atlantic regions. Work by Towers in Orkney, re-examining assemblages from Skaill, The Cairns and Riggan of Kami (2010) and Ann MacSween's review of an IA assemblage from the broch at Dun Beag in Skye (2002), has added important new information to this discourse. Towers' re-examination of IA assemblages concentrated on sherd thickness to propose a differential between occupations (2010). Andrea Smith, when discussing IA artefacts from Atlantic Scotland, suggests 'one way in which corpora could move [pottery] studies forward is to use recently excavated material with better context information and dating to cast more light on material with poor context information in museum collections' (Smith 2002; 811). Her proposed methodology will be applied to the current study.

Older museum assemblages will be reviewed here with the hope of identifying datable material, such as food deposits, from which radiocarbon dates could be ascertained. In this study, this will only be possible with the Clickhimin, Ness of Sound, Underhoull and Greista assemblages, which are housed in the Shetland Museum and Archives, (Jarlshof is curated in National Museums Scotland in Edinburgh and their storage facility is being moved to new premises in 2014 and 2015. Access to the assemblage was therefore not achievable during this period of study).

Analysis of pottery from recent excavations, which have been published, will not be included in this study but the diagnostic pottery from these sites will be discussed. These include assemblages from Bayanne in Yell, Cruester in Bressay and Burland in Trondra (see Fig. 8). Access to this material was not possible during the period of

this study as the assemblages remain with the excavators, and have not yet been awarded through the Treasure Trove process¹.

After the preliminary survey of the eight chosen sites is completed, diagnostic elements of the assemblages will be sampled for chronological study. The completed dataset will then be used for comparative studies with securely dated, modern excavations such as Bayanne, Yell and Old Scatness in Dunrossness. The results will underpin the creation of a visual and database record of Shetland's LBA-LIA ceramic sequence.

2.2.1 The site selection

From the many excavated assemblages held by Shetland Museum eight sites were chosen for this study (see Table 1). The selection was made with three factors in mind:

- A geographic spread across the islands necessary to identify if pottery trends during a given period were shared throughout the region.
- Older assemblages that have not been reviewed for many years which could be updated with information and dates revealed by modern excavation.
- Unpublished sites, with the aspiration to publish them following this study.

The 'stray finds' collection was also sampled, adding date ranges and new information to the museum record.

¹ It is intended that if these assemblages are awarded to Shetland Museum, they will be added to this working register in the future.

Table 1: The sites reviewed in this study

Site name	Period	No. of sherds analysed	Percentage of total assemblage
Kebister	Late BA –Late IA	322	8%
Upper Scalloway	Late BA –Late IA	479	11%
Mavis Grind	Late BA –Late IA	113	3%
Catpund	Iron Age	34	100%
Clickhimin	Late BA/Late IA	147	Unknown ²
Greista	Middle/ Late IA	79	100%
Ness of Sound	Early IA/Middle IA	249	100%
Underhoull	Middle/ Late IA	698	22.5%
Stray-Finds	Various	206	100%

Systematic recording of diagnostic sherds from unpublished material held in Shetland Museum will be undertaken, including recent stray finds. Context may be an issue with stray finds, depending upon what was recorded at the time of discovery. Where contextual information is scant, only the fabric and the form of the sherds will be recorded for this study, as determining a secure date will be beyond the scope of this project.

The sample was chosen by looking through the excavation reports and finds lists to identify diagnostic sherds. Problems arose with some assemblages, such as Underhoull and Ness of Sound (both undertaken by Alan Small), as few or no site records or diaries were kept and the finds list for Underhoull did not always match what was written on the finds-bag or what was contained within³.

² The total no. of sherds from Clickhimin were not counted. Records available did not record the amount.

³ Dr Alan Small, from Dundee University, was not an archaeologist but a geographer with a keen interest in archaeology.

2.2.2 Selecting a sample

Most archaeological excavations yield hundreds and sometimes thousands of pottery sherds. Investigating enormous quantities of sherds, especially body sherds, is extremely time consuming, often for little reward. This study will select diagnostic⁴ samples from each reviewed assemblage of Shetland pottery. While some body sherds will be examined for characterisation and fabric analysis, the study will concentrate on diagnostic elements such as decorated sherds, vessel bases and rim sections.

The number of sherds analysed varied depending on the size of the pottery assemblage for each site (see Table 4). Catpund, Greista and Ness of Sound have small assemblages consisting of less than 300 sherds, so all sherds were reviewed. Mavis Grind was the first site re-examined before my pottery training was complete; the sample was previously analysed by Ballin Smith and so were the basis of my initial independent pottery analysis. The Underhoull assemblage had remained untouched since the 1960s so merited a larger sample; therefore all diagnostic sherds (22.5%) were reviewed. MacSween noted during her analysis that 1% of the Kebister sherds were diagnostic (1999: 188). For this study, having a different set of parameters, 8% of the assemblage was reviewed. Diagnostic material from Upper Scalloway accounted for 11%. The sherds reassessed from Clickhimin formed the basis of my training week; therefore Ballin Smith went through all the boxes and selected the sample with diagnostic qualities.

Typological analyses from these assemblages will be vital for the overall classification and chronological study of Shetland ceramics. An Excel database methodology will enable pottery morphology and type to be accessed by individual sites or as a regional group, permitting comparisons to coexistent assemblages, not only in Shetland (see Fig. 8), but with similar traditions in Orkney and the Western Isles where cultural affinities have been identified in the past (Cunliffe 2005: 118, 218-219). Likewise, regional developments which are unique to Shetland will be classified, within a Shetland wide typological sequence. This will support a working

⁴ Diagnostic sherds will include those with distinctive fabric, decoration, rim or base type; and those sherds that are large enough to highlight the shape of a vessel.

register and catalogue of Shetland material, in conjunction with research being undertaken by Mason (see above).

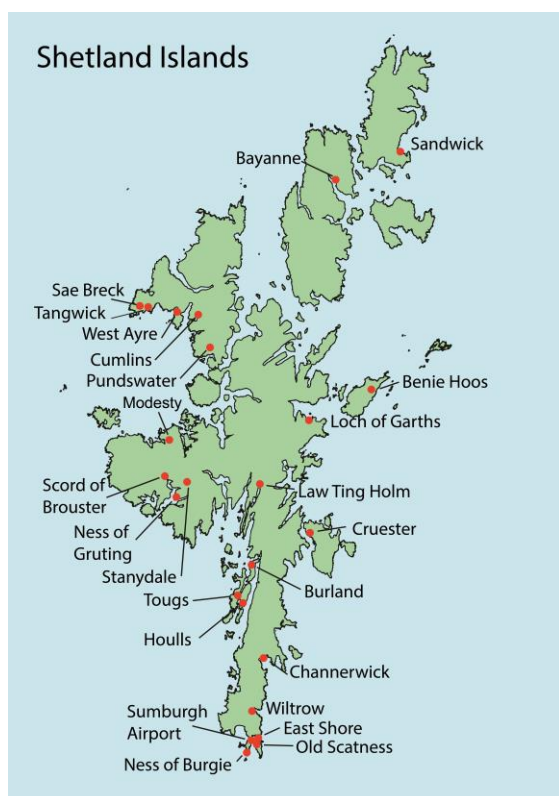


Fig. 8

This map highlights the archaeological sites used for comparative data for this study. These include Bronze Age and Iron Age sites from all corners of the Shetland Isles.

2.2.3 Tools of the trade

The analysis of pottery from the sample selected will be undertaken according to the *Prehistoric Ceramics Research Group* (PCRG) Guidelines (see 2010: 13-36 & Appendix 2). The PCRG was formed in 1988 publishing and updating guidelines regularly for the study of prehistoric pottery. Their manual is intended for specialists and scholars concerned in the analysis of pottery, providing a framework for best practice in the discipline (PCRG Guidelines 2010:1).

The PCRG guidelines offer an essential benchmark in best practice required for the effective study of ceramics. If specialists and researchers adhere to the same guidelines and terminology a more proficient and workable standard can be achieved in the analysis and reporting of prehistoric pottery. The PCRG's aims for the minimum standard include being able to:

- Provide a tool for planning and curatorial archaeologists and others involved in the monitoring process, to assist in the monitoring of archaeological fieldwork, analysis and publication.
- Help museum curators in the management of ceramic archives.
- Establish minimum standards as a guide to students and new entrants into the profession (2010: 6).

Shared and standardised terminology is important if ongoing studies are to be productive in recording definitive analysis of ceramic construction and chronology. This is especially relevant for this project, together with concurrent research being undertaken by Mason. It is vital that collaborative recording and terminology is undertaken with an aim to produce a meaningful publication on completion of this research, in accordance with the PCRG guidelines. It has therefore been agreed that the author and Mason will use similar recording sheets in our analysis of pottery fabric, manufacture and form.

The range of parameters to be recorded in this study, as recommended by the PCRG, can be found on the Excel Recording Sheet (Appendices 3 and 7). These include the PCRG's minimum standard of documenting: fabric, form, number of sherds, weight of sherds, surface treatment and decoration. Context will be recorded when known, as this is vital for understanding chronology and distribution, and may also help ascertain the function of the vessel.

The physical methodology, described by artefact specialist Andrew Jones as 'macroscale observations' (2002: 67-75) will be applied, to record the features of each sherd accurately. This will include interpretive examination by the naked eye and particular evaluation of the 'feel' of each sherd shall be noted. Certain tools to assist with uniform recording will be used. These will include a Radius Measuring Chart, as approved by PCRG, a *Limint* 150mm electronic Vernier calliper, a set of *Scalix* electronic digital scales with a range of 0.1g to 3,000gms. These will be calibrated regularly to ensure precision. A Munsell Colour Chart will be referenced for the classification of pottery colour. As recommended, a hand-held magnifying glass will be used and a *Daylight* magnifying lamp to distinguish inclusions within the fabric of the pot.

Charts to identify inclusion density, diagrams of sorting of inclusion, inclusion roundness classes and categories of roundness for grains will be employed for fabric analysis, as recommended by PCRG (2010: 48-52). Images will be taken of each sherd during the process using a *Lumix Panasonic* DMC-FZ28 camera, enabling a detailed photographic record to be compiled. A wide range of literature will be used for comparative studies as detailed in the bibliography.

The Excel recording sheet used for this study has been adapted from recording forms used in previous post excavation work in Shetland (for example, by Ballin Smith, Appendix 7). Additional columns were added to the original Excel sheet to record fabric, rim type and decoration codes, the identifiers documented in this study (see tables 2-4).

2.2.4 Pottery identification training

Pottery interpretation training was provided by pottery specialist Beverley Ballin Smith in February 2014 in the National Museum store, Edinburgh. This gave an opportunity to review some of the Shetland material curated there, including assemblages from Benie Hoos in Whalsay and Jarlshof (See Fig. 8, Map of sites). The study allowed the acquisition of photographs of a sample of diagnostic sherds to use for comparison with the material in Shetland (see below). One full week's training in Shetland allowed a review of the Clickhimin assemblage under her supervision. Further analysis of the remaining sites was then completed.

2.2.5 Typological classification method

Typological studies offer a chronological sequence by comparing a vessel to similar finds that have been securely dated (see Renfrew & Bahn 2004: 124-126). Cunliffe suggests regional sequences can be achieved which can then be correlated with neighbouring areas, creating 'style-zones', which can highlight a region, within which, communities maintain contact and share cultural values (Cunliffe 2005: 87). 'Style-zone' typologies, from secure stratigraphic contexts, can be employed to chart trends in pottery and the rate of change within regions (*ibid*).

Typological evidence was gathered using three headings – pottery fabric, rim type and decoration. While previously published material has included individual classification systems, for examples see Kebister and Sumburgh Airport (Owen &

Lowe 1999; Downes & Lamb 2000), the Museum collection has not been analysed using a universal system of categorisation. For this study, a set of classifications for each typological category was applied to each sherd examined – see Tables 2-4.

The description of fabric identification for fabric types F2, F3 and F4 was appropriated from Yarrington's summary of fabric groups used to categorise the Sumburgh Airport assemblage (2000: 38-39). The current author's classifications were then added to cover the other fabric types that were identified in the eight sites re-assessed here. A decision was taken to limit these fabric identifiers or codes to eight, F1-F8 (see Table 2). MacSween suggests, when analysing course pottery assemblages, fabric groups should be kept as general as possible and questions the usefulness of recording 'minute variations'; for her analysis at Kebister she specified four fabric types (see MacSween 1999:148). The fabric series applied to the Old Scatness assemblage, analysed by Louise Brown, is rather cumbersome with ten headings (A-K), and within each heading are further sub-types, for example A1-A4 (Brown 2015: 338).

Twenty-one identifiers were employed to distinguish variations in decoration (see Table 3). Additional codes were inserted when new decoration types were recognised. A conscious decision was made to use separate codes for carinated vessels (D2 - vessel displays a carinated shoulder and D4 – vessel has carinated shoulder and is burnished). These characteristics were thus divided because carinated vessels are observed during LBA/EIA, while burnished examples are later (MIA-LIA). Similar possibilities were considered with incised decoration types, so various codes were adopted.

The third data set of fifteen indicators was employed to differentiate between rim types, R1-R15, (see Table 4). Some terms, such as 'beaded rim' has been used to describe rolled rims in the past, therefore it was important for this research to highlight the types identified in this study, within the Typology Sheets, offering a digitised reference gazetteer (see Appendices 4-6).

Each pottery sherd examined in the current study was recorded on an Excel sheet (see Appendices 3 and 7) and assigned identification codes according to each classification. This enabled the analysis to be evaluated both for each site and the

whole study parameter. For photographic examples of each classification please refer to Typology Sheets (Appendices 4-6).

Table 2: Pottery Fabric Type Classifications

Fabric Identifier	Fabric type
F1	Untempered clay including sandy clay
F2	Vesicular pottery – The vessels are generally thick (10mm-14mm) hard, well fired and fairly heavily gritted. Organic or similar inclusions have mostly been burnt away in firing or dissolved during deposition leaving characteristic large angular vesicles. Some sherds were heavily gritted and now the vesicular fabric crumbles easily. Where the grits have survived they are dull white or yellow, soft and angular in shape. One possible inclusion is bone and there is some grits of hard rock. (Yarrington 2000: 38).
F3	Coarse pottery – this group of sherds is similar to F2 with the addition of large angular inclusions including fragments of various hard rocks and a few grits of steatite. Many of the grits protrude through the surface of this very coarse ware (<i>ibid</i> 2000: 38).
F4	Steatite gritted pottery – The sherds from this group are largely or wholly gritted with steatite. The finely to coarsely crushed steatite is found in various proportions from sparse to heavy - some with so much they could be mistaken for actual steatite vessels (<i>ibid</i> 2000: 38).
F5	Mixed rock-gritted fabric – the temper is composed of fragments of various rocks including some steatite. Rock-grits include quartz, granite, unidentified grey rock and mica dust.
F6	Mixed fabric including rock-grits, steatite and grass or chaff.
F7	Grass tempered fabric – sherds of grass or chaff tempered ware.
F8	Grog tempered

Table 3: Pottery Decoration Type Classifications

Decoration Identifier	Decoration type
D1	Undecorated sherds
D2	No decoration but has shoulder carination
D3	No decoration but vessel is burnished
D4	Carinated and burnished
D5	Impressed circles and geometric shapes
D6	Incised curvilinear and geometric decoration
D7	Incised triangles or parallel lines
D8	Border of incised parallel horizontal lines (x2), with vertical lines, chevrons between
D9	Fingernail impressions
D10	'Stabbed' decoration, made with bone or feather
D11	'Pie crust' applied neckband
D12	Applied cordon below rim which has deep incised horizontal slashes
D13	Applied cordon with wavy fluting
D14	Sherd with multiple holes, possibly from a strainer
D15	Applied plain cordons
D16	Incised lines with pin prick dots, burnished
D17	Incised/dragged vertical lines over whole vessel
D18	Chevrons or herring-bone
D19	Impressed shell-edge (cockle)
D20	Cord impressed
D21	Crenellation design

Table 4: Pottery Rim Type Classifications

Rim Identifier	Rim type
R1	Plain
R2	Plain, flattened
R3	Plain, rounded
R4	Plain (R2 and R3) everted, including slightly everted
R5	Everted facetted, or decorated
R6	Everted with bevelled interior
R7	Plain inverted, some flattened
R8	Rolled
R9	Rolled, everted
R10	Plain, fluted
R11	Rolled and flattened
R12	Flat, or squared – T-shaped
R13	Beaded
R14	Everted rim with applied cordon below rim, with pie crust neckband
R15	Everted rounded with applied cordon below rim, deep horizontal slashes on cordon

2.2.6 Resources

For this study to be effective the project required both financial support and staff time. I gratefully acknowledge that the Shetland Museum agreed to fund my pottery identification training. Staff time was also allowed to undertake the pottery analysis as it was considered increasing knowledge about our collection was a worthwhile investment. Efficient time management was required to timetable the research alongside other museum work.

This chapter has outlined the methodology required to analyse pottery to the detail required for a consistent chronological and typological study to be completed. Chapter 3 will review what is known about the chosen assemblages before an attempt to reassess them is undertaken.

Chapter 3

3.1 Literature review - Introduction

The following chapter will summarise what has previously been documented concerning the eight chosen sites. Four have been professionally excavated and published in recent decades (Upper Scalloway, Kebister, Mavis Grind, Catpund), while others have never been published. A review of site notebooks and documents held within Shetland Archives was therefore undertaken to garner information. The Jarlshof publication will also be included in this review as Hamilton's pottery report remained the basis of typological studies of Shetland material for many years and influences even modern analysis (Smith 2002: 809).

3.2 Jarlshof

Excavations at Jarlshof were the first modern excavations in Shetland in the 20th century, revealing a well preserved multi-period site on the southern shoreline of the mainland. Hidden under centuries of windblown sand, the material culture of Shetland's LBA and IA populations was protected. No knowledge of the site's original name exists but it was bestowed a fine Old Norse-sounding name by Sir Walter Scott when he visited Shetland in 1814 while writing his novel 'The Pirate'.

Located at the heart of Shetland's most fertile parish, Jarlshof successfully supported life from the Neolithic period until the grand house of Earl Robert Stewart, built in the 16th century, became vacant. Records show the site was ruinous by the late 17th century, leaving layers of archaeology untouched until violent storms, in the closing decade of the 19th century, exposed the 'presence of massive stone walls in the denuded face of the mound...' (Hamilton 1956: 6-7). The owner of the estate, John Bruce, began exploration of this section of the site between 1897 and 1905, uncovering part of the IA settlement. The site was then put into guardianship by the Office of Works in 1925, and excavations of Jarlshof's BA settlement was undertaken under the direction of Dr A. O. Curle between 1931 and 1935. Following interruption during World War II, field work began again in 1949, this time under the supervision of the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, J. R.C. Hamilton, who dug annually until 1952, when he completed the excavation of the IA layers and uncovered Viking and Norse farmsteads (1956: 6-7).

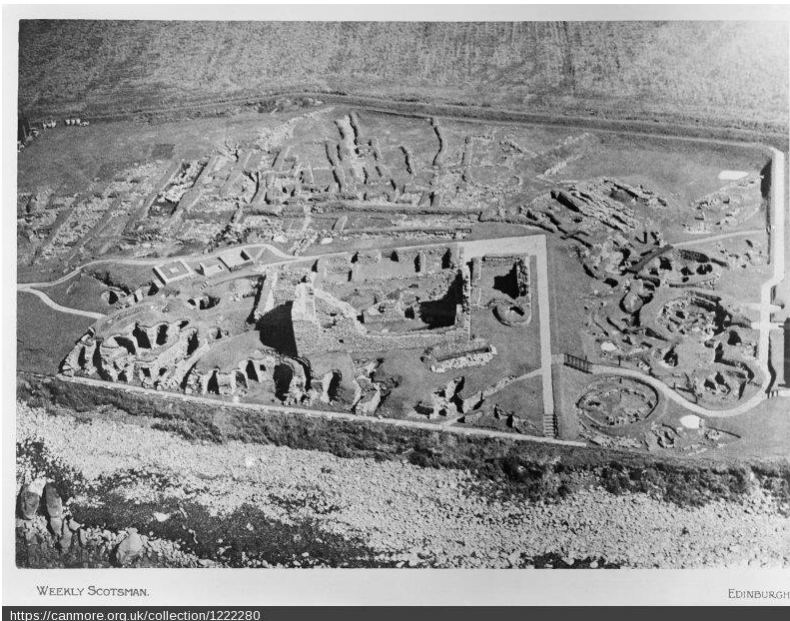


Fig. 9

Aerial image of Jarlshof, which was hidden with overblown sand until the 19th century.

Image: RCAHMS

The large assemblage of prehistoric pottery from Hamilton and Curle's excavations offer the first documented sequence of form and fabric over many centuries, and is still regarded an important reference collection which has underpinned the typology of Shetland ceramics since Hamilton first published his excavation 60 years ago in 1956.

Hamilton's first attempt at summarising and creating a classification system of Shetland's prehistoric pottery was undertaken using the Jarlshof assemblage, and so the benchmark was set, to which many future archaeologists would refer. For this reason it is important to include a full summary of the pottery published by Hamilton although it was not possible to analyse the Jarlshof assemblage for reasons discussed above. The author was however able to spend one day photographing some of the assemblage, stored in Edinburgh (see Appendix 7).

3.2.1 Late Bronze Age settlement at Jarlshof – Village 1

Dwellings 1 - 4

Excavations revealed circular buildings with 'cubicles' arranged around central hearths (Hamilton 1956: 18-29). Two or three phases of occupation were revealed in each house highlighting a long phase of occupation. The final phase of dwelling 3 was occupied by a bronze smith who cast swords, axes and other items using clay moulds (Hamilton 1956: 22). Similarly, in dwelling 4, clay casting moulds and a pouring gate for casting swords were uncovered (Hamilton 1956: 24).

The pottery from this settlement was hard-fired ware, some with a mica slip that was fired to a brick red colour. The vessels, some steatite tempered, were barrel-shaped or straight sided with either flat or rounder rims, some with a rolled edge. Decoration was scarce, with one decorated fragment with vertical incised strokes and others displaying an applied rolled cordon 1.25cm below the rim (Hamilton 1956: 29).



Fig. 10

Jarlshof sherd with applied cordon
just below the rim – Find No. 3583

3.2.2 Late Bronze Age settlement – Village Two

Roundhouses with Souterrains⁵ – Dwellings 4-6

Superseding village 1, the LBA settlement was built from the stones of the earlier buildings (Hamilton 1956: 32). The houses in Village 2 were cellular with large central hearths, but they also included souterrains, (underground passages with chambers thought to be for storage). Finds from the souterrains included animal bones, a bronze pendant and the rims of two pots with finger and pin impressions on the upper surface. A new style emerges, with the vessels displaying a 'well-defined hollow' below the rim (*ibid*: 37, Fig. 18).

The second phase of occupation within dwelling 4 revealed a metal workshop, complete with a large circular hearth (Hamilton 1956: 33).

Finds from Village 2 included a new style of pottery which Hamilton describes as 'black polished' ware. These burnished vessels had a curve beneath the rim (*ibid*) - (Fig. 11).

⁵ These are sometimes referred to as 'earth-houses'



Fig. 11

Carinated vessel from Jarlshof which is burnished and tempered with steatite.

A change in the material culture from within these hut circles displays a marked change from previous settlements; the heavy stone tools so prevalent in previous layers seem almost absent from the record (Hamilton 1956: 36). Although common to earlier occupation, shale saws, knives and quartz scrapers completely disappear in the round houses, although mould fragments confirm the culture is still LBA (*ibid*). A distinct change is also noted in the pottery sequence described by Hamilton, with the introduction of black burnished 'S-shaped' ware and straight-sided ware with internally inverted rims. Steatite tempering is noted extensively in the assemblages (*ibid*). Pots with beaded rims were also noted (Hamilton 1956: 34).

3.2.3 Iron Age Settlement at Jarlshof

Excavation in 1951 revealed a 'broch tower' with attached courtyard; a large aisled roundhouse and byre; a wheel house complex; and a 'passage house' (Hamilton 1956: 41-42). These IA layers revealed much about the settlement and cultural change during this period, including a new class of pottery.

Phase One – the broch and courtyard complex

The pottery, from the earliest courtyard layers was described by Hamilton as being distinct from the carinated ware of the earlier round huts. Although steatite was still being used as temper, these pots were crude, ring-built vessels (Hamilton 1956: 46). The majority of vessels recovered from the broch and immediate post-broch settlement were large ovoid cooking pots with slightly everted rims, very similar to

those uncovered at Clickhimin broch site (*ibid*, Hamilton 1968: 120). From within the broch occupation layers, uncovered by Curle's excavation in the 1930s, a hard fired pot with no steatite tempering was uncovered, displaying a finger-pinched cordon (pie-crust) rim (Hamilton 1956: 46). This type of decorated rim is evident in the Clickhimin assemblage (see Fig. 8). The Clickhimin examples are also steatite free, and contain quartz, rock grits and grass temper (see Appendix 7).



Fig. 12

Iron Age 'Pie-crust' decorated rim sherd (Type R14) from Clickhimin.

Similar pottery is also noted from a broch in Uyeasound, Unst; and from a possible broch mound at Cumlins, Olnefirth (Hamilton 1956: 47). Pie-crust rims are also noted at Upper Scalloway (MacSween 1998) and Underhoull (Small 1964).

Phase Two – the aisled-roundhouse and byre

The aisled roundhouse was constructed with six 'chambers' separated with stone built piers, around a large paved hearth (Hamilton 1956: 48-49). Evidence from these chambers suggests they were used for different functions, not unlike the rooms we use today.

Pottery from these contexts included sherds from the original floors; steatite tempered fragments from large cooking pots displayed slightly everted rims. Hamilton describes a hard siliceous slip applied on the lower part of the body which had burnt to an orange colour due to firing (*ibid*: 50). While this may have looked similar to an applied slip, it may be evidence of oxidation or poor firing which burnt orange over time after being set into an open fire, (Fig. 13) - (see Ellis 2014: 212).



Fig. 13

Rim sherd (CLN 79134) from Clickhimin shows a reddish exterior caused by oxidation and burning from use in the open-fire.

Sherds of finer red ware (Hamilton's Class 2) were recovered from the top occupation midden (in chamber 2), plus sherds of thinner 'black burnt' ware (Hamilton 1956: 50).

Phase Three – the Wheelhouse complex



Fig. 14

Looking down into a now roofless Wheelhouse at Jarlshof.

Image: RCAHMS

Wheelhouses 1-4

Similar in shape to the older roundhouse discussed above, the wheelhouses uncovered at Jarlshof were built with radial piers from the inner wall projecting towards large central hearths, described by Hamilton as being like the spokes of a wheel (1956: 58-92).

Hamilton reported new elements of material culture within this innovative architecture, together with an increase of associated agricultural consumption (1956: 59). Metal working was on the increase, steatite moulds indicates the community were casting small objects (*ibid*).

Hamilton identified four pottery categories from the wheelhouse contexts; Class 1 and Class 2, a much thinner hard-fired red coloured ware (see Table 5), which Hamilton believed was a new ceramic tradition (1956: 57-64).

From secondary floors within wheelhouse 1 Hamilton describes this new innovative 'Class 2' pottery as a hard-fired red ware, some of it decorated⁶ (Hamilton 1956: 60). These were different to what had come before (Class1) with large ovoid shaped vessels with no steatite tempering, displaying various rim types including, rolled, flattened, squared and beaded (*ibid*). Decoration includes incised slanted lines on the interior of the pot; and applied cordons below the rim, (also noted at Clickhimin and Olmesfirth, *ibid*). Six sherds of a dark grey carinated bowl⁷ were also recovered from beneath a hearth in wheelhouse 1 (Hamilton 1956: 63).

Class 3 ware appears towards the end of the wheelhouse period and described by Hamilton as a 'brownish-grey' or buff ware, a change in colour from Class 2 which he believed was due to a different type of clay being used. It is described as having a softer texture; the vessels not being so well constructed or fired (Hamilton 1956: 81; Fojut 1998: 21).

In later wheelhouse occupation deposits sherds of thin stick-incised ware, termed Class 4 were uncovered (Hamilton 1956: 69).

⁶ Find numbers B101, B119, B199, B234,

⁷ Find numbers B252, B261

Table 5: Hamilton's pottery classifications for Jarlshof (*ibid*: 55-89)

Hamilton's Classification	Pottery description
Class 1 – 'Native ware'	Ovoid-shaped vessels made from steatitic tempered clay; everted rims.
Class 2 – 'Wheelhouse' – made by incoming people	Large ovoid cooking pots, made from untempered clay (of fine consistency); rims include slightly everted, beaded, plain flattened and squared.
Class 3 – 'Buff ware'	Brownish-grey ware, large open cooking bowls; rims are flattened and inverted.
Class 4 – 'Thin hard ware'	Primitive appearance, very thin straight-sided pots; rims are flattened or squared.

Late wheelhouse period and post-wheelhouse contexts

Hamilton concludes the wheelhouse period was of long duration and further buildings, 'passage houses' were constructed on the site (1956: 90-91). Among the rubble of older buildings, midden material accumulated from which numerous pottery sherds were recovered, including two buff-ware vessels and six sherds of decorated ware (Hamilton 1956: 78, Fig. 20). From middens, outside the settlement, a number of pottery sherds were uncovered including Class 3 and Class 4 ware, and a fragment of thin grey ware with a sharply everted rim, indicative of a small globular bowl (*ibid*: 82. Fig. 41: 28-30).



Fig. 15

A small reconstructed globular vessel from Jarlshof (HSA 4282).

During 1951, excavation of the passage houses and later period peripheral huts revealed a marked change in the pottery sequence, both in fabric type and manufacture. Large open cooking bowls were common in these later contexts, made

from different clay to that used earlier (1956: 81). The fine red wares were replaced with less-smooth pots constructed with brownish grey coloured clay. The later wares showed a degeneration of production techniques, with pots being less well made and not fired as well (*ibid*).

Within the final layers of the passage house, a small collection of black burnished ware was uncovered, these sherds were suggestive of high shouldered globular vessels which Hamilton considered to be 'imports' into the settlement (1956: 83). Hamilton was a diffusionist who believed that sometime during the second and third centuries AD, colonists came to Shetland from the south, bringing with them new material culture including pottery. His diffusionist theories were very much of the time, but have been latterly challenged by modern archaeologists. This will be discussed further in chapter 6.

By the time the last IA or Pictish inhabitants occupied Jarlshof, before the Vikings arrived in the 9th century, Hamilton suggests only a few scattered families lived on the site (1956:90-91), using Class 4 pottery (see Table 5).

3.3 Kebister

Situated on the east side of mainland Shetland, Kebister is an important multi-period site (see map, Fig. 3). Excavation during the 1980s revealed successive periods of occupation from the BA through to the abandonment of Handigert, a small farming settlement at Kebister, around 1817 (Owen & Lowe 1999: 252,17). While palaeo-environmental evidence showed human presence, with woodland clearance at Kebister during the Neolithic period (c 2600-1800 BC), no early structures were uncovered. Early settlement may have included wooden buildings now lost to the archaeological record, or the settlement may have been near the shoreline, which is now submerged due to Shetland's rising sea level (*ibid* : 253).

3.3.1 Bronze Age Kebister

BA Kebister dates to c1800-500BC, with the presence of seven burnt mounds, two settlement buildings (structures 1 and 2) and three cremation pits (1-3) on the hillock above (*ibid* :253-267).

Structure 1 was a significant discovery; an early wooden sub-rectangular building, comparable to similar wooden structures at Scord of Brouster (Whittle 1986) and Sumburgh (Lamb 1985). The Kebister example contained two large cooking pits and a central-hearth. The building is thought to be a cookhouse, as there was no room in the structure for habitation (Owen & Lowe 1999: 256). Sherds of typical BA pottery, carinated vessels made from steatite-tempered clay, were recovered from one pit and the fills from several of the post-poles, offering a *terminus ante quem* for structure 1 (*ibid*). Six steatite tempered sherds (Find No. SF3773) were recovered from cremation pit 1, outside the settlement, holding the remains of an adult male (*ibid*: 266).



Fig . 16

Sherd from BA Kebister, showing a carinated shoulder (Vessel B1).

Only one decorated sherd from the early BA phases (Vessel B3) was recovered, displaying rows of possible fingernail impressions (Fig. 17). This decorated sherd is similar to lentoid decorated sherds from Benie Hoos, Whalsay (Henshall 1961: 41, fig. 7.10).



Fig. 17

Lentoid decorated sherd (Vessel B3) from Kebister

Evidence from structure 2 was scant as the building was very fragmentary with no floor surfaces surviving (Owen & Lowe 1999: 260). The earliest diagnostic pottery recovered from this area is LBA/EIA. Although there were only five diagnostic sherds these included a ring impressed fragment (Fig 18) – vessel E259, dated to the EIA by Dalland and MacSween (1999: 181), and therefore most likely an anomaly.



Fig . 18

Ring impressed sherd from vessel E259, found in Structure 2, Kebister.

3.3.2 Iron Age Kebister

Early phases

With the introduction of iron in Shetland, around 500BC, society began to change; farming intensified within the Islands (see Dockrill 2002: 158) and nucleated settlements evolved, often near to the shore as cultivatable land came under increasing pressure (Sharples & Parker Pearson, 1997: 262; Owen & Lowe 1999: 280, 76; Edwards & Whittington 1998: 11-12; Champion 1999: 103).

EIA pottery was recovered from the earliest of these dwellings - structure 3, associated with the primary floor level, and from primary and secondary occupation layers of structure 4 (*ibid* 1999: 269). Radiocarbon dating shows that structures 3 and 4 were built between 300 and 100BC (with 68.5% probability - *ibid*: 270). EIA pottery is defined by vessels with sharp 'necks' (vessel E11) and shouldered vessels (E76, C140 and C76) some of which were burnished (Dalland & MacSween 1999: 180). These have parallels with pottery from the late BA village at Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956: 38, Fig. 19), the EIA farmstead at Clickhimin (Hamilton 1968: 43) and Mavis Grind (Cracknell & Smith, 1983: 34-37, figs. 18, 20-22). Fabrics were mixed, the

early examples being made of sandy clay, and twenty vessels from phase 2.1⁸ being tempered with rock or steatite. Only two decorated sherds were recovered from the EIA layers; vessel E129 is made from untempered sandy clay and has a spiral decoration on the interior of the base, and vessel E259, discussed above from phase 1.1, the LBA / EIA context (Dalland & MacSween 1999: 181).

Middle Iron Age settlement

As noted above structures 3 and 4 were built between 300 and 100BC but were occupied for hundreds of years; structure 3 was abandoned sometime between AD225-425, indicating it was in use for between 325 and 725 years; structure 4 was abandoned between 85BC and AD115, suggesting it was occupied for up to 415 years (*ibid*). Deposits within the later stratigraphy of structure 3 were classified as 'Broch type' or Middle Iron Age ware (vessels F4, F6, E131, *ibid*: 184) and 'Wheelhouse type' pottery (from the LIA period) - (E184, E187, E180), which was radiocarbon dated to 90-500AD (*cal.* 95.5%, GU-2613). Broch-type ware includes globular flat-based vessels (F4, F6) with everted and sometimes bevelled (faceted) rims, occasionally decorated with applied finger-pinched cordons (Fig. 8). Similar forms and decoration are noted at Clickhimin (Hamilton 1968) and the primary broch settlement at Upper Scalloway (McSween 1998).

Later Iron Age settlement

Owen and Lowe used Foster's dating system for the Late Iron Age at Kebister, with the period between AD 230 and 625 (classed as Late Iron Age 1) and after AD 625 (defined as Late Iron Age 2)⁹ (Owen & Lowe 1999: 272). This is still in Shetland's Middle Iron Age period as defined by Sharples (1998) and Noel Fojut (pers. comm.). The construction of the oval-shaped structure 5 appears quite different from its predecessors with differing sized cells linked together to form a cellular complex. This new style of architecture incorporated three occupation layers within it. A hearth sealed beneath one of the walls was radiocarbon dated to 15BC to AD120, offering a *terminus post quem* for the construction of the dwelling (*ibid*). Pottery from structure 5 included 'Broch type' wares from the primary layers, and 'Wheelhouse type' burnished wares with inverted rims. The 'Wheelhouse' barrel shaped vessels (E181)

⁸ Phase 2.1 is described as Middle Iron Age 400BC-AD400 (Owen & Lowe 1999: 148)

⁹ These are dates for Scotland (see Foster 1996).

were often burnished and some were decorated with incised concentric circles, triangles, in-filled parallel lines and geometric designs (Dalland & MacSween 1999: 186, Illus. 163). Parallels for this type of ware include the later IA pottery of post-broch (AD 200-500) Jarlshof and Clickhimin (Hamilton 1956: 79, Hamilton 1968: 147, Fig. 66; 3, 64). Burnished vessels were common and often highly polished with beaded, rolled or flattened rims replacing the earlier everted rims (Vessels E5, E10 and C167) (Dalland & MacSween 1999: 186).

Sandy and grass tempered clay fabrics dominated all stratigraphic layers within structure 5 (*ibid*). LIA grass-tempered ware was recovered from the floor levels of cells 2, 3 and 4, all within the second phase of occupation. Radiocarbon dated barley grain from these contexts were obtained, offering a calibrated date of AD70-435 (*cal.* 95.4%, UtC-1152) (Owen & Lowe 1999: 277). These straight-sided vessels were largely undecorated with inverted rims. The grass-tempered vessels from Kebister (Vessels A2 and A3) were markedly different to the rest of the assemblage, owing to their very 'thin walls' (Dalland & MacSween 1999: 187).

In summary, the Kebister pottery sequence covers the period of this study, including diagnostic LBA to MIA wares (following Sharples and Fojut's definition). The sequence shows that steatite and rock tempered fabrics are associated with the earlier phases of the site, while later periods are dominated with untempered or grass tempered wares. IA Kebister appears to have been abandoned sometime around AD400 and this is also reflected in the ceramic sequence (*ibid* 1999: 277).



Fig. 19

Decorated 'Wheelhouse type' burnished ware, vessel E184 from Kebister.

3.4 Upper Scalloway

During the winter of 1989-90 a rescue excavation was undertaken on the upper slopes of Scalloway, on the west side of the Shetland mainland. The site at Upper Scalloway revealed a multi-phase settlement that included a LBA cremation burial, a broch that was occupied for 600 years before being destroyed by fire, and a post-broch settlement that continued in use until the 8th century AD (Sharples 1998). This agricultural settlement was succeeded by a medieval cemetery.

3.4.1 The Late Bronze Age/ Early Iron Age

Phase 1

The earliest evidence of human activity at Upper Scalloway was a cremation burial sealed below the broch wall. The cremated bones of a single adult, aged between 30 and 40, were held within a barrel shaped vessel (589) carefully covered with a sandstone slab (Sharples 1998: 11-14). The vessel, made from sandy clay with inclusions of quartz and steatite, was undecorated and had an inverted rim with a flat lip (MacSween 1998: 12). With very few diagnostic features, it is difficult to date this simple vessel, but the late end of the EBA is tentatively suggested (Sharples 1998: 17). Unfortunately no samples from Phase 1 have yet been scientifically dated (see discussion in Sharples & Dalland 1998: 87-88).

3.4.2 Early - Middle Iron Age

Phase 2

The broch at Upper Scalloway was a substantial building, constructed around the closing century BC and the beginning of the first century AD. A total of 605 sherds of pottery were retrieved from the broch, found within layers of charcoal and ash, a layer that marked the end of the primary occupation of the structure due to conflagration that destroyed the building. Only twenty-three sherds were found to pre-date these layers suggesting the domestic floor was regularly cleaned out (Sharples 1998: 31). In excavation context 7.5 (the occupation layer of the broch interior) 370 vessels were recovered with almost half (41.6%) being produced from untempered clay; 54.6% was rock-tempered, 2.7% steatite and 1.1% was tempered with grass only (MacSween 1998: 98). MacSween suggests that steatite tempered

pottery, most common in areas north and west of the broch, was used by the first occupants who regularly cleaned the floor and deposited refuse outside (blocks 5.2, 6.1 and 6.7) (*ibid*). Pottery from these blocks include round bottomed carinated vessels with inverted plain and flattened rims similar to LBA pottery recovered from Structure 2.1, the timber framed building at Kebister (Owen & Lowe 1999: 260) and the 'Late Bronze Age farm'¹⁰ at Clickhimin (Hamilton 1968: 33, fig. 44.8). The Scalloway vessels from phase 2 were straight or barrel shaped (Sharples 1998: 133).



Fig. 20

Early Iron Age carinated sherd (V149) from Upper Scalloway. The fabric being heavily tempered with steatite.

3.4.3 Late Iron Age

Phase 3

Following the fire which ended the primary activity, the broch was re-occupied. Cellular structures were built inside the broch with new occupation layers evident on excavation (Sharples 1998: 43). The broch interior was now furnished with two substantial partitions and a large central hearth. Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from these occupation layers (blocks 7.3 and 7.4); heather charcoal produced a date of between AD465-650 (*cal.* 95%, utC-1656), and a cattle metatarsal provided a date of between AD650-854 (*cal.* 95%, GU-3925), both indicative of the LIA (*ibid*: 47).

Eleven rim types were identified among the Upper Scalloway Phase 3 assemblage, including plain, flat, everted, inverted, necked, rolled, beaded, faceted, rounded and

¹⁰ It is now disputed that there was ever Bronze Age occupation at Clickhimin, see Chapter 6.

internal bevelled. Some were burnished and MacSween suggests that polishing the outer surface of the vessel makes them non-porous and better for storing or heating liquids (1998: 132-133). The assemblage included some decorated sherds, especially from phase 3 occupation layers (*ibid*). These included incised banded decoration (V702 and V1113), finger impressed neck ('pie-crust') bands (V1343) and applied triangular cordons (V1115, V1116), comparable to 'Wheelhouse type' pottery from Jarshof (Hamilton 1956: 66, fig. 35.21, 22). Similar to IA Kebister, some sherds of grass tempered ware appear in the later periods of occupation at Scalloway (see Chapter 6).



Fig. 21

Vessel V1113 from Phase 3, Upper Scalloway, showing incised banded decoration.

In summary, there is little evidence of BA occupation at Upper Scalloway, other than the cremation burial. Following the building of the broch, the settlement continues from 100BC to AD850, a period traditionally considered the Middle to Late Iron Age (Sharples 1998: 204). The pottery sequence is very similar to Kebister, with steatite tempered pottery defining the EIA phases, then rock tempered and un-tempered wares typifying the later broch and wheelhouse period. Grass tempered wares also make an appearance during the later phases. MacSween summarises the ceramic sequence for Upper Scalloway: steatite tempered, rock tempered then un-tempered, which she suggests reflects assemblages from the periods EIA (500-200BC), MIA (200BC-AD400) and LIA (AD500-800: MacSween 1998:133

3.5 Mavis Grind

Unlike Upper Scalloway and Kebister, the house excavated at Mavis Grind was not a multi-period settlement but a single house that had been renovated and changed during its time of occupation. The rescue excavation was prompted by the construction of the Sullom Voe oil terminal in the 1970s. In 1973 field walks by the Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Patrick Ashmore, were undertaken in the Mavis Grind area leading to the identification of two prehistoric settlements, and three possible house sites, on Virdins Hill. The sites were surveyed in 1978 revealing that one of the houses had been completely destroyed by quarrying, one was almost completely buried under quarry spoil and the third house remained visible. Trial excavation of this structure was undertaken in 1978 followed by complete excavation in 1979 (Cracknell & Smith 1979: 28, 1983: 13).

The structure was oval shaped; its exterior measured 10 m x 13 m, with a circular interior of 7 m diameter (*ibid*). Two phases of building and occupation were identified. Finds from the site included ceramics and stone tools, a stone ard, quartz scrapers, a blue glass bead and nine stone armlet fragments similar to those found in the IA roundhouse at Jarlshof (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 27-29).

3.5.1 The earliest building – Phase 1

Only one crescent shaped wall remained from the first occupation phase. Occupation layers of ash and peat had accumulated within the house and one hearth was identified. Evidence suggested that much had been cleared from the house before reconstruction was done for its second phase of occupation (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 14-16, 1985: 88). Midden material to the south east of the entrance contained pottery, bone and charcoal (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 17).

3.5.2 The partitioned building – Phase 2

The house was remodelled during its second period of occupation. Partitions were added, dividing the dwelling into seven bays with a central-hearth. Three post holes were identified, suggesting the roof was supported with wooden posts, although at least another three would have been required, but were not identified (Cracknell & Smith 1985: 89). Occupation deposits were identified in all but two of the bays, and

four sequential fires were observed within the phase 2 hearth (Layers 103-7, 350, 352-3 and 355) (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 19).

During the final phase of occupation, two hollows were cut into midden material outside the entrance of the house (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 19-20). Peat ash and rubble was deposited into these hollows. One was surrounded with an arc of eight erect stones, and both had evidence of post holes, leading the archaeologists to conclude that they may have been from an insubstantial wooden structure (*ibid*). The final abandonment was highlighted by widespread peat ash and debris within the house, which had been robbed of many of its stones during the final phase. These may have been used to build one of the other three houses on the site. Botanical evidence indicated that the surrounding area continued in use following the abandonment; ard (plough) marks were noted in the top layers outside the house, which continued right up the walls, indicating cultivation of the site post-abandonment (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 27).

During the excavation 4500 sherds of pottery were recovered of which, 5% were vessel rims and 1% were bases. All were heavily tempered with steatite and classed as 'grey ware' (Cracknell & Smith 1985: 92). Five rim forms were identified; rounded and slightly everted, square – including some T-shaped (Types R3, R4 and R12 – see Table 4). Some vessels had reformed rims where the top clay coil join had broken off, most likely at the carinated shoulder. This broken edge had been smoothed to create a new rim on the vessel (*ibid*: 93).



Fig. 22

Squared rim (Type R12) sherd of grey steatitic ware, Mavis Grind (Find no. 42).

The majority of vessels with flat squared rims had a carination 8cm below the rim and were undecorated, 75% were highly burnished, others had a mica-dusted clay slip applied, offering an eye-catching shimmer to the vessel (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 52, 1985: 93). One group of pottery was thicker and more heavily tempered

and their larger diameter led Smith to conclude that these large vessels were used for cooking (1985: 93). Smaller, finer vessels were also identified, some with holes below the rim suggesting they may have been suspended; two or three may have had spouts for pouring liquid (*ibid*).

Similar flat based vessels which are highly carinated at the shoulder were identified at Clickhimin and Jarlshof. Coil-built vessels from Mavis Grind have parallels to those found in the LBA midden and in dwelling 2 at Jarlshof, and in the EIA houses and souterrains (Hamilton 1956: 19-20). Likewise, similar steatite tempered ware can be seen from the IA farmstead at Clickhimin (Hamilton 1968: 41). Steatitic ware with flat and rolled rims, similar to Mavis Grind was identified earlier in the LBA/EIA houses at Pundswater, 2 miles north, (Henshall 1962-3: 67) and Benie Hoos in Whalsay (Henshall 1961: 40-42).

An interesting discovery from Mavis Grind hints at pottery manufacture; a stone tool (Find no, 77) was found with clay adhering to it, suggesting it may have been used as a pottery burnisher or polisher (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 29).

In conclusion, occupation of the house at Mavis Grind may have lasted one to two centuries and in that time there were two settlement phases. During this period the ceramic record was remarkably constant with little change noted in fabric or form (*ibid*: 27). Comparing the pottery assemblage with other known Shetland sites, Smith concludes that the Mavis Grind pottery is most likely to be LBA to EIA (*ibid*: 33). The excavators at Mavis Grind reported that it was difficult to find suitable samples for radiocarbon dating so soil had to be used (*ibid*: 33). Unfortunately these proved to be inconsistent with the only reliable sample offering a date of AD20-350 (*cal.* 95%, GU-1508) for the in-situ deposits of the hearth, in the occupation layer in phase 1 (*ibid*).



Fig. 23

Many of the Mavis Grind vessels had a sharp carination 8cm below the rim, as highlighted here in Find no. 1113.



Fig. 24

Find no. 522 from Mavis Grind showing small hole below the rim, enabling the vessel to be suspended.

3.6 Catpund

Similar to Mavis Grind, the Catpund site is a single dwelling with more than one phase of occupation. It is situated at the south end of the Shetland mainland in the parish of Cunningsburgh and is in close proximity to a steatite quarry which had been exploited since prehistory (Turner *et al* 2009: 76). Excavation of this oval shaped prehistoric house, measuring 13.5m x 10m, was undertaken in 1988, when it came under threat from a modern steatite quarry planned in the area (Ballin Smith 2005: 3). It is not clear if the house was related to the ancient quarry, but fragments of steatite vessels were discovered within the house, suggesting the local steatite had been exploited during the period of occupation (*ibid*: 31).

3.6.1 The oval house

Phase 1

Constructed of stone, the walls were one metre thick. Under the domestic floor a Y-shaped drain had been dug and a stone tank, complete with lid, had been sunk into

the floor (the archaeologists concluded that this tank was used to hold smouldering peat embers, stored to rekindle the fire within the hearth), (*ibid*: 11). A series of five hearths were uncovered in the initial occupation layers. Unfortunately, only two artefacts were recovered from the primary phase of occupation; an ard point and a fragment of a steatite vessel (*ibid*: 21). This lack of material culture suggests that the Catpund house was thoroughly cleaned during its use and possibly before the second phase of activity (*ibid*).

Phase 2 Occupation

Following the abandonment of the original house, a layer of silt built up before the structure was temporarily reoccupied. A stone 'shelter' was constructed within the remains of the original house (Ballin Smith 2005: 11). Following the final abandonment after this activity, the entrance filled with soil and the walls began to collapse (*ibid*).

Finds included, stone tools, ard points and quartz lithics. Eleven sherds of pottery were recovered, six from the first abandonment phase, the remaining from the second phase of reuse and final phase (*ibid*: 34). This small assemblage was predominantly undiagnostic with only one rim sherd recovered; this was tapered and rounded (Fig. 21). None were decorated but most were burnished and slipped; all were heavily tempered with steatite, schist and mica dust (*ibid*). With the lack of diagnostic features dating the Catpund ceramics is challenging.



Fig. 25

The single rim sherd from Catpund, with rounded edge tapering inwards (Type R3) – (Find no. 556).

Ballin Smith concluded that Catpund is problematic to date by the artefact assemblage alone, as stone and quartz tools were utilized throughout the prehistoric period in Shetland. The small steatite tempered ceramic collection offers the only clue and the house was most likely occupied from the MBA to LBA (2005: 43). Smith

suggests the whole Catpund assemblage is comparable to those recovered from House 1 at Scord of Brouster, the later occupation layers of which were dated to 2300-1750BC (cal. 95%, CAR 248 - Whittle 1986: 27).

3.7 Clickhimin

Clickhimin has been excavated (and interfered with) many times, and this will be discussed at length in Chapter 6. Excavated by Hamilton between 1953 and 1957, he described Clickhimin as a ‘companion’ site to Jarlshof (Hamilton 1968: xv). His choice of word ‘companion’ is significant to his interpretation of Clickhimin. Having excavated Jarlshof less than a decade earlier he set out with a mission to prove a theory which he did quite well. His interpretation of Clickhimin has recently been scrutinised by scholars shedding doubt on Hamilton’s conclusions (Fojut 1998; Smith 2015).

Clickhimin broch is situated in the centre of Shetland’s largest town, Lerwick (see map, Fig. 3). Once in open countryside, on a promontory within a small loch, the site has been surrounded by modern development (Fig. 61). The site was included in the first list of scheduled monuments in 1882 and has been protected ever since.

During the early 1930s, the Royal Commission of Ancient and Historic Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS), undertook a detailed survey of Clickhimin with the aspiration of defining the periods of construction (Hamilton 1968: 11). Hamilton undertook his excavation with a set plan to likewise define the periods of occupation, but also to look for evidence of a period he had found ‘missing’ in Jarlshof; his wish was to identify the material culture of a time when he believed Jarlshof had been abandoned and IA Shetland had been colonised by incoming settlers (*ibid*: xv).

3.7.1 The Late Bronze Age Farmstead

Hamilton writes about the first occupants of Clickhimin:

‘Occupation...begins with the arrival of a native farmer who built a farmstead for his family...in the eighth or early seventh century BC’ (Hamilton 1968: 25).

Excavation revealed a large oval shaped house with a central hearth and cellular recesses inside the inner wall. Hamilton noted that the dimensions of the house, 27 feet by 26 feet, concurred with houses 2, 3 and 4 at Jarlshof (*ibid*: 28). Finds from

Hamilton's 'Late Bronze Age' farmstead were few, owing to successive clearing (*ibid*) but included stone pounders and rubbers, a large broken trough quern, two fragments of polished Felsite knives and an assemblage of coarse barrel shaped pots with plain rims (Hamilton 1968: 31). He compared this pottery to that from LBA Jarlshof (Village 1), although he concluded that the Clickhimin ware had more steatite tempering, giving it a 'dark grey appearance' (*ibid*: 33). The rims were mostly plain, (rounded or pointed) and the vessels were flat bottomed (see Hamilton 1968: 33, Fig. 14).

3.7.2 The Iron Age Farmstead

As with many scholars of his time, Hamilton was a diffusionist, believing that when a new kind of artefact or architecture was identified it was due to a change in social culture brought into the community by migrating populations (see Renfrew & Bahn 2004: 471). As he excavated the layers at Clickhimin, recording new dwellings and material culture, he suggested that these were the work of IA colonists originating from southern Britain (Hamilton 1968: 34-35). The IA farmstead was a large stone-built roundhouse, (termed a hut by Hamilton) and included secondary alterations to the existing BA farm house. Hamilton suggested this structure was identical to the large roundhouse at Jarlshof (*ibid*: 36). On excavation, the Clickhimin roundhouse and its radial piers were very fragmentary and only a segment of the original floor survived. This yielded peat ash and pottery sherds that were very similar to pottery from Jarlshof (dwelling 4, occupation B – see above) (Hamilton 1968: 39).

Other finds included stone pounders, a sandstone pendant, pot lids or discs, a stone bead, bone pins and three steatite bowl lamps (*ibid*: 39).

Pottery from the IA farmstead was classified by Hamilton into two categories. Class One (steatitic ware, as found at Jarlshof and described by Hamilton, above) was a thick ware with much steatite tempering, (Hamilton 1968: 42, Fig. 19:1a-3a, Plate XXI 1a). These vessels had flat extended rims and some were carinated with sharp shoulders, while others were a continuation of the LBA barrel-shaped pots. Hamilton's Class Two vessels were not tempered with steatite and the vessels were much finer, with carinated shoulders (less pronounced than Class 1) and flat rims (Hamilton 1968: 41). The vessels were of varying sizes, including carinated bowls with a rim diameter of 20-23cm (see Hamilton 1968: 42, Fig. 19: 1-5). Medium sized

cooking pots were described by Hamilton as 'bucket shaped' and smaller vessels included bowls with simple inverted rims (Hamilton 1968: 43). Only four sherds were decorated, one with an incised triangle infilled with pricked marks (*ibid*). Two sherds showed incised chevrons around the carinated shoulder, one with incised dots below the band of decoration, and the fourth was a flared base sherd with horizontal prick marks (Find No. CLN 7434 - Fig. 26).



Fig. 26

Decorated base sherd (CLN 7434)
from the Iron Age farmstead at
Clickhimin– Decoration Type D10

3.7.3 The Iron Age Fort

Hamilton was certain that an incoming population were responsible for the building of defensive structures around the shores of the Northern Isles (1968: 45). Why fortifications were needed and what they were fearful of we may never know, but even on the tiny islet of Clickhimin, a fort and blockhouse were constructed sometime during the IA. Hamilton notes:

‘...at Clickhimin the fort builders appear to have taken over the islet from the earlier Iron Age farmers with no discernible break in occupation.’ (1968: 48)

This theory has been widely disputed and will be discussed in Chapter 6. Regarding the pottery evidence from this phase, Hamilton suggests these *northern colonists* brought a new ceramic tradition of fluted rims, neck bands, shoulder cordons and decorated bases (1968: 46-48). He compares this ware to that brought into south-west Britain through Brittany, from central and southern Gaul (*ibid*). To add weight to his hypothesis of immigrant colonists, Hamilton proposes that the native farmers were ‘probably rendered clients or serfs,’ a model he suggests is reflected in the

pottery assemblage, with the presence of ‘native’ steatitic wares alongside the ‘more advanced wares’ introduced by the fort-building incomers (1968: 78).

Excavation of the fort and ringwall recovered a range of portable culture including stone tools, including pounders and hammerstones, pot lids, handled discs and a shallow saddle quern and rubber (Hamilton 1968: 78). Textile manufacture was indicated by a collection of spindle whorls, some steatite and others made from recycled pottery. Metalworking was suggested by a crucible fragment; and tools with metal blades were inferred from the large number of sandstone hones (*ibid*). Hamilton’s excavators uncovered a spiral finger or toe ring, bronze pins, a bronze link chain and a yellow glass bead (1968: 79) suggesting that personal adornment was now important to the people of Clickhimin.

Over 3,000 sherds of pottery were uncovered from a midden layer on the outside of the fort wall. Hamilton describes one group as a ‘finely made ware’ that is well-fired to a reddish brown (1968: 91, plate XXVII nos. 2-6). The most common form was large shouldered cooking pots with everted or fluted rims (see Hamilton 1968: 93-94, figs. 42 and 43). Some of the vessels in this group had an applied collar or neckband moulded to form a double or bipartite rim (see Hamilton 1968: 94, fig. 43 nos. 19, 24 and 25). A second class of pottery uncovered in this midden layer were large bucket-shaped vessels. These were much coarser in fabric with heavy steatite tempering, everted and fluted rims and decorated bases (*ibid*: 92).

Some complete pots were recovered and reconstructed following their discovery. These were of different sizes and fabrics (see Table 6); and rims included rolled top, plain and beaded, and some were everted and fluted (*ibid*: 92-96).

Table 6: Complete pots from Clickhimin

Vessel Type	Height	Colour	Fabric	Rim type
Cooking pot	382mm	Grey buff	Steatite tempered	Everted, fluted
Cooking pot	312mm	Light red/brown	Steatite tempered	Plain everted
Cooking pot	258mm	Dark red	Rough texture	Rolled
Cooking pot	Approx. 369mm	Light red/brown biscuit	Not stated	Not stated
Cooking pot	77mm	Dark red	Rough texture	Rolled
Cooking pot	248mm	Red burnished	Not stated	Plain everted



Fig. 27

Above: Decorated base (CLN 7939) and rim sherd (CLN 7611) from the IA fort at Clickhimin.

Below: Reconstructed cooking pot with rolled rim, and drawing of how the fort at Clickhimin may have looked.

Drawing: Shetland Museum



3.7.4 The broch

The story becomes more elaborate for Hamilton's next phase (Hamilton 1968: 97). He suggests that before the fort builders had completed the inner ringwork, a new set of immigrants arrived on site, the 'conquering minority', who took control and built the broch tower. He proposed that they lived in temporary huts during the period of construction, dismantling the IA farmstead to erect the broch (*ibid*). Hamilton uses

the material finds to validate his theory, suggesting three 'classes' of pottery for this phase:

- Class 1- plain globular bowls with everted and double rims, some plain and others fluted, all similar to the wares noted in the fort phase.
- Class 2 - a 'related but variant strain'. These wares were heavier and were decorated with finger pressed or slashed bands, and applied clay bands around the neck.
- Class 3 - more crudely built wares from the 'native tradition', tempered with steatite. (Hamilton 1968: 98).

Hamilton concluded that the steatite-tempered ware continued to be used by the former fort dwellers, who had not been expelled by the incomers, but were now a 'substratum in the population' (1968: 98). This idealised classification of pottery wares fits in with his theory of a stratified community and he does not consider that all wares were used by the same people within the settlement, the steatite tempered vessels being able to withstand much higher temperatures for cooking purposes.

The excavated finds reveal a material culture that is 'substantially the same as their predecessors' (Hamilton 1968: 113). These include a variation of similar stone tools and steatite lamps. Textile manufacture is suggested with the occurrence of spindle whorls and steatite loom weights, and bronze jewellery, including intricate pins were unearthed. Evidence for leisure pursuits included gaming counters and bone dice (ibid).

In conclusion, the broch pottery from Clickhimin included many decorated vessels. The most distinctive being large high shouldered, good quality cooking pots, which were fired to a reddish brown biscuit colour (Hamilton 1968: 120). These were decorated with heavy cordons or neckbands, applied directly below the everted rims. Some applied cordons had slashed diagonal line decoration. Rim types included flaring everted, some with a 'pie crust' effect, and squared 'bipartite' (Figs. 28, 29), (Hamilton 1968: 121-123, Figs. 51- 54).



Fig. 28

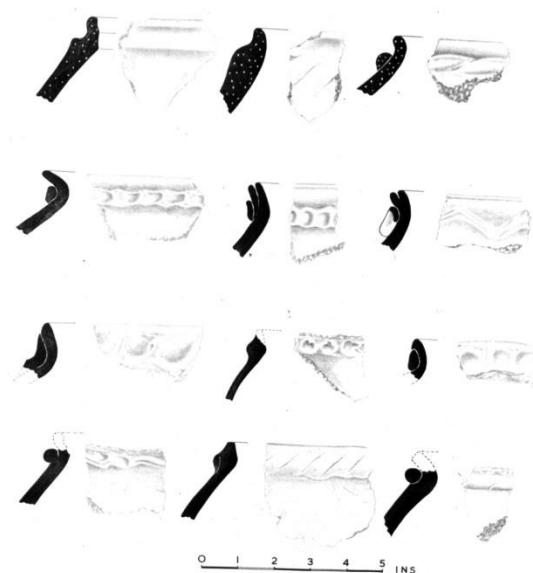
Rim sherd from the Clickhimin fort with slashed cordon around the neck – taken alongside original drawing in Hamilton 1968: 123, Fig. 54

Fig. 29

Rim types become more complex during the broch period at Clickhimin. These include Type R14 and R15 illustrated here.

Drawing – artist unknown

Copyright: Shetland Museum



3.7.5 The Wheelhouse period

A single, substantial wheelhouse was constructed within the broch, built from masonry from the dismantled broch tower. The house was ovoid shaped, a design very similar to the wheelhouse at Jarlshof, with a series of *rooms* or compartments surrounding a central hearth which was square and paved (Hamilton 1968: 25-128).

Excavation by Hamilton's team around the outside of the wheelhouse revealed an extensive midden deposit almost one metre deep. The midden material was fairly evenly spread and suggested a long period of occupation (*ibid*: 131). The discovery of Roman glass, amongst building rubble, dating to the late first to early second century AD gave a *terminus post quem*, for the construction of the wheelhouse (see Hamilton 1968: 138, Fig. 62). Pottery similar to that of the Passage Houses at Jarlshof (discussed above) was uncovered in the wheelhouse. Hamilton suggests this ware is LIA, around the 7th-8th century AD (1968: 132)

Finds from the wheelhouse period included pebble loom-weights, fishing line-sinkers, beads, bone awls, pins and bobbins, a silver ring and bronze fishing gorges. Six yellow glass beads and two glass pendants were also uncovered (*ibid*: 133).

The midden layers contained the majority of the wheelhouse pottery, especially in the middle and upper contexts. The fine, well-made red ware vessels were mostly large, slightly globular, cooking pots with everted rims which were either plain or fluted (Hamilton 1968: 144). The previous style of highly ornamented neck bands seems to have diminished during this period, although rims were still fluted and more accentuated (*ibid*: 131). Decoration is uncommon in these wares, with only a few sherds showing triangular or curved and grooved patterns on the shoulders of the pots (see Hamilton 1968: 147, Fig. 66 – 3,5 & 6 , Plate XXXVIa)., Barrel-shaped vessels are also present in these layers and smaller open bowls begin to make an appearance (*ibid*: 146, Fig. 65).



Fig. 30

There is much less decoration in the wheelhouse period wares - this is one of the few vessels with incised triangles (CLN 792).

All the vessels had flat bases, in some cases these were worked on a basal plate, giving a lip around the outer edge very similar to a modern cup base (Fig. 31). Some bases exhibit spiral decoration, similar to those from the fort (Fig. 27)



Fig. 31 Wheelhouse period pottery

Left: Bases take on a modern look with a raised lip around the outer edge (CLN 7943).
Right: Bevelled everted rim sherd, which may have supported a lid (CLN 7635).

The Clickhimin Wheelhouse ware can be paralleled with that found at Jarlshof. Similarities include the large cooking pots with everted and bevelled rims. Smaller vessels exhibit plain, rolled and beaded rims. Steatite is still used as a temper.

3.7.6 The Late Wheelhouse period

Like Upper Scalloway and Jarlshof, the late wheelhouse period in Clickhimin showed signs of an impoverished community. The structures were poorly built and the material culture in decline; pottery reverts back to simple forms with little or no decoration (Hamilton 1968: 150-159).

Excavation of the final occupation layers at Clickhimin recovered few finds. Hamilton suggests this was because of previous and successive disturbance and excavation between 1861 and 1910 (Hamilton 1968: 151). The structures uncovered were small and belonged to a period of poverty in the Shetland Isles during the 7th - 8th century AD (*ibid*: 158).

Hamilton describes the pottery from these contexts as 'simple and poor bucket shaped pots' (1968: 159). The rims are flat, everted and slightly in-turned (*ibid*),

While the form is simple the fabric appears to be good quality well-fired to a biscuit colour, and built with reasonably thin walls which have been prepared with an implement (possibly a wooden stick) leaving score marks in the clay (*ibid*). Parallels to this ware can be found in the Jarlshof assemblage from the passage houses and huts.

3.8 Ness of Sound

The Ness of Sound is situated in the central area of Shetland's mainland, south of Lerwick (see map, Fig. 3). The excavation of a large burnt mound was undertaken by Dr Alan Small from the Dundee University in 1972. Students joined him on what was offered as an archaeological summer school organised by the local Education Department of Zetland County Council. Correspondence, held by Shetland Archives, show a breakdown in relationship between the Director of Education, Mr John Spence, and Dr Small, (SA7/ 1/8/1). Unfortunately this led to Mr Spence's reluctance to send the Ness of Sound finds down to Aberdeen to be analysed, due to costs. Later correspondence show the finds were held by the local authority until 1997 before being placed in the care of the museum (SA7/1/8/1/13).

The findings of the excavation have never been formally published and there are no known records or plans of the dig. The only surviving record of the excavation are the finds, some photographs, an article in the local newspaper¹¹ and a small paragraph published in *Discovery and Excavation in Scotland* (DES) in November 1972 (Small 1972: 38).

This reads:

Excavation of the Burnt Mound at Ness of Sound was undertaken under the auspices of the Shetland Summer School. A section through the 'mound' showed the usual matrix of fragmented heated stone, charcoal and the occasional pottery sherd. Area excavation within the crescent of the mound revealed the structures associated with a seasonal cooking place—a large stone cooking pot almost 3m x 1m sunk into the peat to make it watertight partly enclosed in a small square building. A paved area linked this to a semi-circular hearth where the stones required to boil the water were heated. On each side of the paved area storage chambers

¹¹ Shetland Times 25th August 1972.

were clearly defined. Small finds included pottery, stone implements and part of a wooden shovel or paddle. A pre-broch Iron Age date has been assigned to the site (*ibid*).

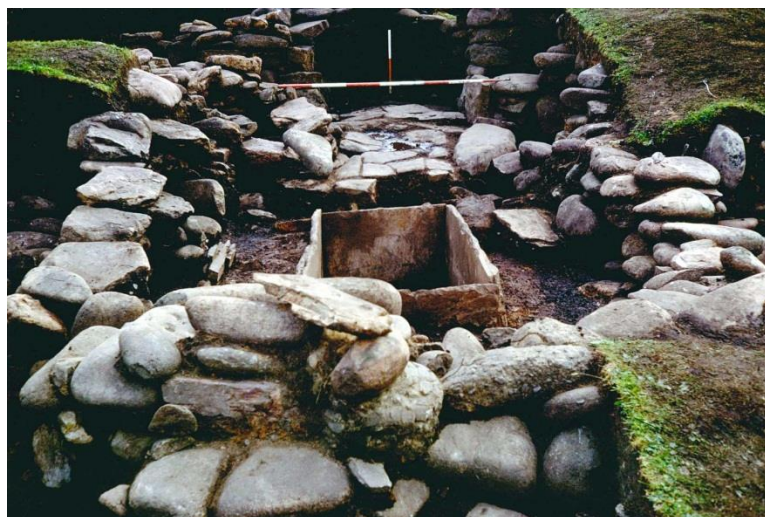


Fig. 32

Excavations at Ness of Sound revealed stone structures, burnt stones and a stone tank for heating water.

Copyright: Shetland Museum

Dr Small suggests the burnt mound is EIA, 300-100BC on the basis of the pottery (Shetland Times, 25th August 1972). In a letter to Colin Renfrew in 1972, Small notes:

I have interpreted the site as a seasonal cooking place constructed in the period 100-300BC on the basis of pottery parallels to Clickhimin and Jarlshof, in so far as this pottery sequence can be believed (SA7/1/8/1/6/2).

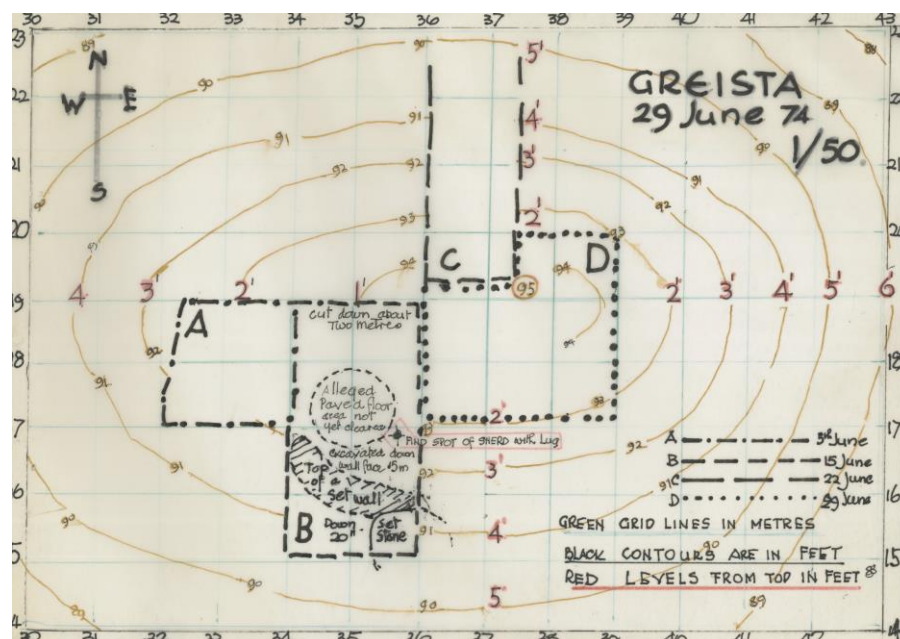
A total of 249 sherds of pottery were recovered during Small's excavation. None of the vessels were decorated, some were burnished and the majority were tempered with steatite. Rim types include plain and flattened with one sherd exhibiting a rolled rim. Other items in the assemblage include three small quartz lithics, a few rough stone tools, three pieces of pumice, one small piece of jet, animal bones, a few lumps of charcoal and a tiny piece of Cannel-coal. With an excavation of this size it is possible that more stone tools were present but these may have been reburied following excavation.

3.9 Greista

The assemblage from Greista, Tingwall is small but interesting. Representatives from the Royal Commission (RCAHMS) visited Shetland in 1930 and recorded two

small burnt mounds covered in turf, situated near the burn of Greista¹². Excavation was carried out by the Shetland Archaeology Society during the summer of 1974 on one of these mounds, approximately 200 metres from Greista Farm. The handwritten excavation notes were recorded by members of the Society and are held in the Shetland Archives (SA7/1/5). Their notes record that no burnt stones were visible which led the Society to believe this was not a burnt mound. Excavation of the mound revealed a shallow layer of loose stones which covered a 12-14 inch layer of 'dark loam' which contained numerous small sherds of pottery (*ibid*).

Fig. 33 - Hand drawn plan of the Greista excavation (SA7/1/5)



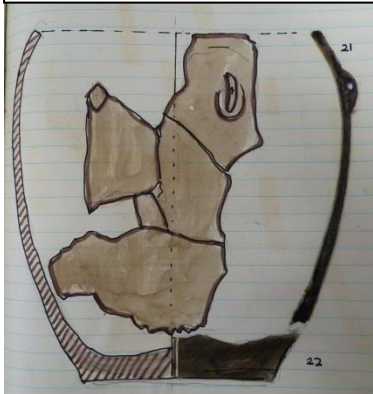
As the excavation progressed, they unearthed a deep pit, 1.9 meters below the surface, and 'massive stone walling' (*ibid*). Within the pit they recovered an unusual vessel (386); it was highly burnished, black, and had a very unusual lug on the side, and evidence of another which had been lost. The lugged pot may have held cremated remains, which had been covered perhaps by a leather lid, held fast by the lugged projections (Ballin Smith, pers. comm.). What the Society had excavated was most likely a burial cairn and not a burnt mound (SA7/1/5).

¹² The spelling of Greista has variations e.g. Canmore (Record No. 1122) has it marked Griesta.

Fig. 34

Below: The original drawing of the 'lugged pot' from Greista (SA7/1/5).

Right: Rim sherd showing the lugged projection.



The lugged pot is well-fired and tempered with steatite, rock-grits and grass. It is highly burnished to a polish and has a plain flattened rim (Fig. 34).

The remaining pottery sherds were a mixture of buff coloured ware and burnished ware. All were tempered with steatite, grass and mixed rock-grits including quartz and mica. There was no sign of any decoration, although some of the sherds were much abraded. One sherd had a neatly drilled hole which may have been used for hanging or repair. Rim types included plain flattened, plain with slight pointing and one with a plain rim with an external bevel and another with an internal bevel.



Fig. 35

Buff-coloured, steatite-tempered pottery from Greista.

Image by Iver Raknes Finne

3.10 Underhoull

Underhoull is situated on the west coast of Shetland's most northerly island of Unst. The island is famous for its rich and numerous Viking and Norse remains, but the various brochs situated within the landscape show that it also supported a strong IA community.

The broch at Underhoull stands proud on a hilltop overlooking Lund beach. Its deep ramparts are a testament to the complexity of the structure, which is now much robbed of its original masonry. Between the broch and the shore below lie the remains of a Norse longhouse, various mounds and the entrance to an underground souterrain. It is these structures that Dr Alan Small excavated in the early 1960s

Small notes, that following four seasons of excavation, three distinct periods of occupation were revealed (Small 1964: 227).

3.10.1 The hut floor and attached souterrain

The earliest occupation, which Small proposes to be EIA, was a 'hut' with a flagstone floor. This structure was attached to the souterrain, 'which sweeps round for 26 feet an almost complete semi-circle' (*ibid*).

Pottery, described by Small as 'Broch period' was recovered from a midden which had built up around the entrance to the souterrain, and from floor layer in front of this underground passage. He identifies thick, heavy reddish ware, with high steatite content, similar to that identified at Jarlshof (Small 1964: 229). Another type he describes as finer, with smaller particles of steatite temper and carinated shoulders. Again, Small compares these to Jarlshof pottery from the hut and souterrain layers (Hamilton 1956: 80-90). The only other find, from this context, is a small serpentine pendant (Small 1964: 229 Fig. 5).



Fig. 36

Entrance to the underground souterrain, Underhoull.

Copyright: Shetland Museum

3.10.2 The Broch period

Small describes a definitive stratigraphical break between the hut and souterrain and the remains of the Underhoull broch and surrounding remains (1964: 230). To the north of the hut (with secondary occupation layers) he describes a large midden deposit, which had built up against the souterrain entrance and a thin layer over the hut floor. This midden contained peat ash and 'relics of household goods' (*ibid*). He suggests the pottery, is of considerable interest, and he categorises it into three typologies:

1. Large, ovoid shaped cooking pots with everted rims. These had applied decoration below the rim, including slashed-lines and finger-pinched 'pie-crust' ornamentation. Again using Jarlshof affinities he dates these to the broch period, 1st century BC – 2nd century AD.
2. 'Native ware', steatite tempered pots with 'straight, flattened and slightly everted rims'. This group was predominately undecorated with only a few displaying incised parallel lines.
3. A finer quality ware with rolled rims and a slight incision below the rim (*ibid*).

Small concludes that all three types are contemporary, having been uncovered in the same occupation layers (1964: 232). Other finds from the area includes pumice, which is impregnated with a reddish-brown. Small suggests this was used to smooth

pottery vessels before firing. Other material, including possible lumps of clay lining from a firing pit, led Small to believe he had uncovered a pottery workshop area. He substantiates this claim with evidence of poorly-fired vessels and examples of 'unsuccessful attempts to attach neckbands' (*ibid*: 234).



Fig. 37

Clay impregnated pumice from the 'workshop' at Underhoull.

The area excavated by Small included a hut with a large adjacent working area, which he suggests can be accurately dated (using pottery typology) to the same era as the broch on the hill above (*ibid*). Associated midden scatter in the area contained peat ash, shell, charcoal and numerous pottery sherds. Other notable small finds included strike-a-lights, serpentine knives and some jewellery: two armlet fragments, two pale yellow amber beads and part of a Cannel-coal ring (*ibid*).

The final phase of settlement included a Viking longhouse, built above the IA layers. This period will not be discussed in this study so analysis of the later pottery was not undertaken.

With the above information gathered on all eight sites, the selected pottery sample was examined and reassessed using the methodology discussed above. The following chapter will discuss the results of this detailed analysis.

Chapter 4

4. 1 The Findings

The primary task of pottery research is comparison of pot with pot; assemblage with assemblage. To do this you need a reliable method of quantification.

(Orton *et.al.* 1993: 34)

This chapter will review the results of the data collection. Pottery identification was completed and recorded on Data Recording sheets (Appendix 7) offering an empirical data set that can be effectively evaluated. A typological analysis is therefore feasible, presenting a classification sequence of LBA and IA pottery for the eight assemblages discussed above. Trends in manufacture and design can be observed within each site but also across Shetland as a whole. This can then be compared to other Iron Age communities within the Highlands and Islands region, notably Orkney and the Western Isles. Pottery specialist, Anne Anderson describes these recognisable local and regional traditions of pottery forms and decoration as ‘cultural indicators’ (1984: 17).

The pottery assemblages from most of the sites evaluated in this study have been assessed by pottery specialists following excavation. Specific pottery sequences have been created by some of these authors (Yarrington 2000, Dalland & MacSween 1999: 189). The aim of this particular reassessment of the chosen sites is that the pottery will be analysed as a whole for the first time, creating a specific data set for all eight sites.

The following sections will review the data gathered for each site, identifying the cultural markers that were evident in Shetland’s BA and IA communities. The outcomes will then be discussed and comparisons made in Chapters 5 and 6.

4. 2 Kebister

Excavations at Kebister revealed an important multi-period site with successive periods of occupation from the BA through to the abandonment of a small farming settlement in the early years of the 19th century (Owen & Lowe 1999: 252,17). For this study, only the pottery from the BA structures to the LIA period was looked at, as

the later material falls outside its parameters. 322 sherds of pottery were re-evaluated offering a varied data set which was useful for comparative studies with the other multi-period sites within the parameters of the study.

4. 2. 1 Fabric

Five fabric types were identified in the Kebister sample; the most frequently noted at 39% was type F4, steatite tempered ware, followed closely with 35% of type F1 untempered clay. Type F3, very coarse ware, with large angular rock-grit temper was identified in 11 % of the sample, 9% of type F7, grass tempered pottery was identified, and finally 6% of the sample was of type F5 – mixed rock tempered ware with grits of granite, quartz, steatite, unidentified grey rock and mica schist.

Table 7: **Kebister fabric types**

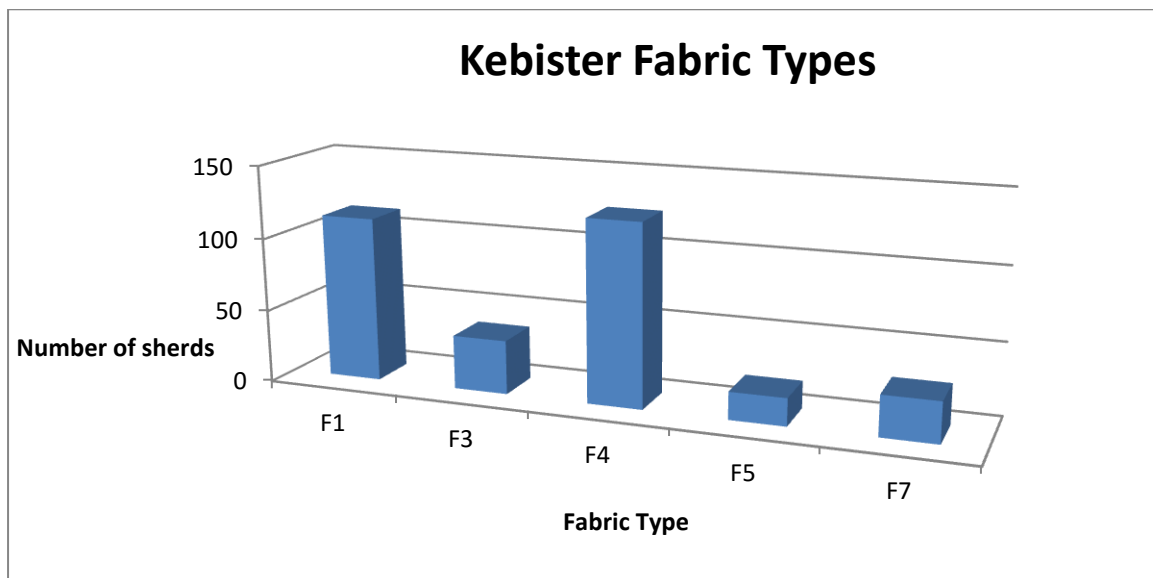


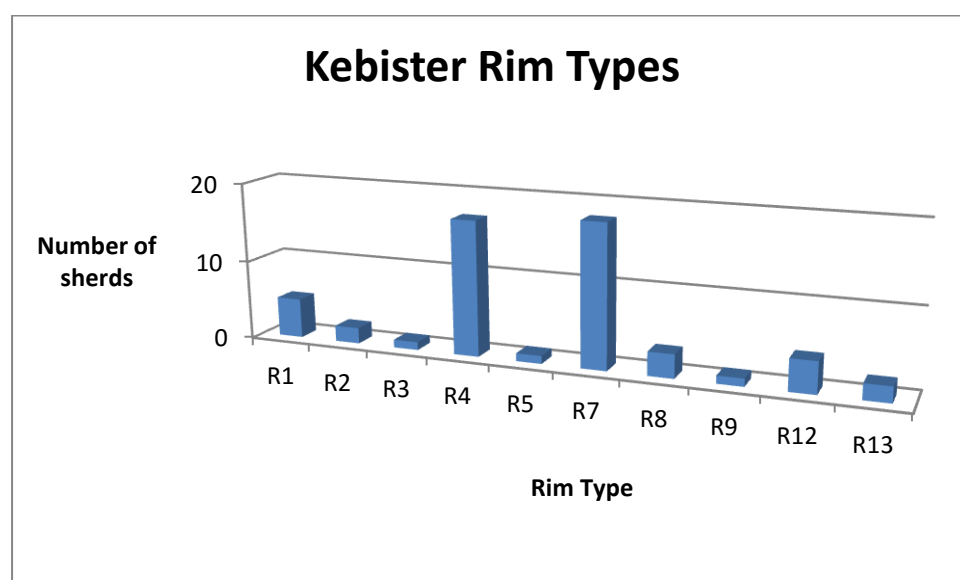
Fig. 38

Kebister sherds with fabric Type F3, very coarse ware, with large angular rock-grit temper, including quartz.

4. 2. 2 Rims

Of the 322 sherds 54 rims were identified and 10 rim types classified. Rims are important for diagnostic study as trends can be seen through different time periods (this will be discussed at length below). The largest percentage, 33% was of type R7 - plain inverted rims with some being flattened, 31% were identified as type R4, plain and everted. Other types included 9% of plain rims (R1); 4% of plain flattened (R2); 3% of plain rounded (R3); 2% of type R5 – everted faceted or decorated; 6% were rolled (R8); 2% were rolled and everted (R9); 7% were flat, squared or T-shaped (R12) and the remaining 4% were identified as being beaded, type R13.

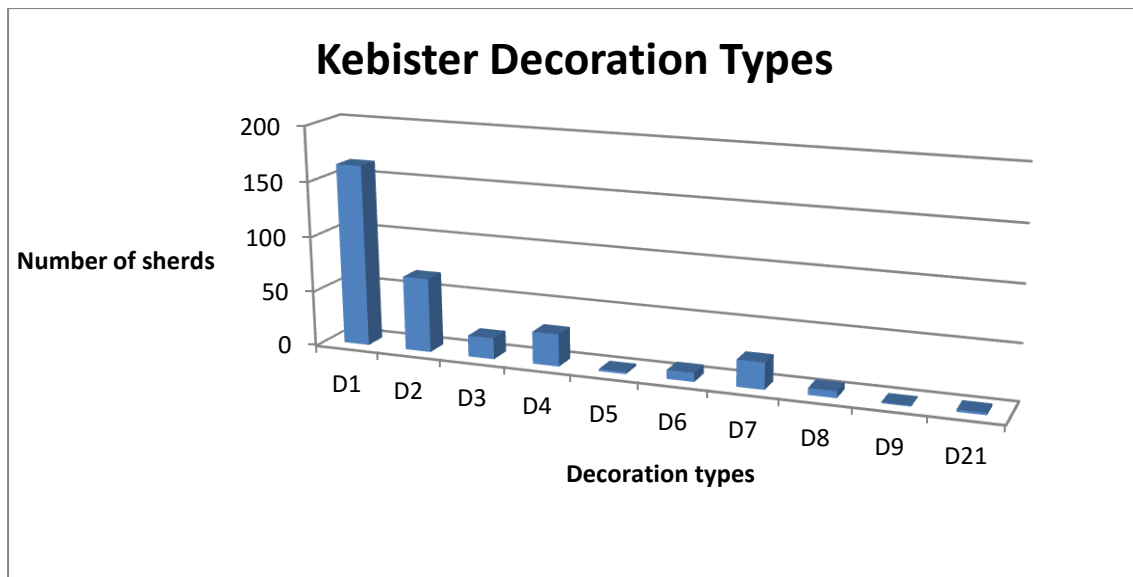
Table 8: **Kebister rim types**



4. 2. 3 Decoration

Of the sample examined over half (51%) were undecorated (type D1). Sixty seven sherds (21%) were noted to be undecorated but with a carinated shoulder (D2); 19% were burnished of type D3; 9% displayed burnishing with a carinated shoulder (D4); 1 % was decorated with impressed circles and geometrical designs of type D5; 2% of the sample displayed incised curvilinear and geometric decoration (D6); 7% were of D7 type with incised triangles and lines; 2% were decorated with a border of two horizontal parallel lines infilled with chevrons (D8); 1% displayed crenellation type design (D21), the remaining 0.3% showed fingernail impressions of type D9.

Table 9: **Kebister decoration type**



4.2.4 Dating evidence

Four phases of occupation, relevant to this study, were identified at Kebister:

- Bronze Age – structures 1, 2, 3 and the cremation burials
- Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age – drain complexes on areas 2, 3 and 6
- Middle Iron Age – structures 3 and 4
- Late Iron Age – structures 5 and associated pits

When analysing the Kebister pottery, following the excavation, Dalland and MacSween noted that only 1% of the 4,000 sherds were chronologically diagnostic (1999: 282). Four fabric types were established; grass tempered; steatitic clay with rock/steatite temper; sandy clay with rock/steatite temper and untempered sandy clay (*ibid*: 178). To create their typology classifications fabric, rim sherds and decorated body sherds were evaluated (*ibid*).

Table 10: The pottery assemblage summarised and classified by Dalland & MacSween, with current classifications (Table 38,1999: 189):

Vessel Description	Murray Decoration Classifications	Murray Rim Classifications	Dominant fabric	Murray Fabric Classifications	Phase
Bronze Age Urn-type vessels, only one example of lentoid decoration Thick walled vessels with inverted plain or flattened rims	D1 D9	R1 R2 R7	Steatite/rock	F3 F4 F5	1.1, 1.2 and 2.2
Early Iron Age Round shouldered Necked and shouldered vessels Facetted rims	D1 D2	R5	Steatite/rock Sandy sandy	F4 F5 F1	2.1
Iron Age Globular vessels, sharply everted rims	D1	R4	Sandy	F1	2.1 – 4.1
Late Iron Age 'Wheelhouse' decorated pottery Burnished wares Inverted wares	D1 D3	R7	Sandy Sandy Sandy, grass	F1 F7	2.2-4.2, 2.2-4.1 2.2-4.1

The 322 sherds I examined for this study covered all four phases. The BA or pre-IA samples were of mixed fabric, including Types F1 and F3, very coarse ware with large angular inclusions of steatite and rock; type F4, steatite tempered were present and F5 with a mixture of steatite and rock-grits. The sherds were undecorated (D1), some with carinated shoulders – D2 and the one lentoid decorated sherd of type D9 (Fig. 17). Three rim types were identified from this grouping, R3, plain, rounded; R7, plain inverted and R12, flattened or T-shaped.

The EIA samples were predominantly tempered with steatite, type F4 and rock/steatite type F5, although a small sample of untempered pottery (F1) was noted. Undecorated, carinated and burnished pots were prevalent in this group (of types D1, D2 and D4). Type D5 was noted in one sherd showing impressed circles (Fig. 18) and three sherds decorated with type D8, parallel-lines with chevrons. Rims from this group included plain and/or flattened, and some everted (types R1, R2, R4), rolled (R8) and everted and facetted (R5).

The IA sample was the smallest of the group examined. Fabric included untempered (F1) and rock grit/steatite tempered (F5). The sherds were undecorated (D1), burnished (D3) and an example of type D7 with incised-triangles and parallel lines. Rim types included plain and everted (R4) and R5, everted and faceted.

The later IA sample produced a higher quantity of diagnostic sherds with a variety of rim types but very little variation in fabric, with untempered clay (F1) being predominant and some grass tempered ware (F7). Decoration included incised circular and geometric designs (D6); type D8, with horizontal parallel lines with chevrons between; burnishing (D3) and the rest were undecorated (D1). Rim types included R7, plain inverted, rolled (R8), plain (R1) and flattened, squatted or T-shaped (R12).

Radiocarbon dating was undertaken during excavation at Kebister and some dates correspond with Dalland and MacSween's pottery sequence (1999: 282). As noted above, the BA carinated vessel was found within the fills from several of the post-holes in structure 1, offering a *terminus ante quem* for the building (*ibid*). The pot sherd, described as residual, was found in the fill of post-hole which provided a thermoluminescence date of 4120±1220 BC (DurTL 86-8AS – Owen & Lowe 1999: 101). The authors suggest this date should be treated with caution so unfortunately cannot be applied to date the pottery accurately (*ibid*: 148). EIA pottery was recovered from structure 3, associated with the primary floor level, and from primary and secondary occupation layers of structure 4 (*ibid*: 269). Radiocarbon dates were obtained for the latest horizon containing pottery (Vessels C140, C142 and D50) offering the date of 295 BC–AD230 (*cal.* 95%, SCR: UtC-1145). These dates suggest the continuation of shouldered and decorated vessels until the turn of the millennium (Dalland & MacSween 1999: 283).

The dating of vessels, described by the excavators as 'Broch' type, can be attained from structure 5, from a hearth sealed beneath the north wall offering a *terminus post quem* of 85BC-AD200 (*cal.* 95.8%, GU-2620) for its construction (*ibid*: 276). Grass tempered (F7) pottery was found in the earliest floor levels in this structure and appears to have continued in use until the final phase of occupation (phase 3) (*ibid*: 277). Samples from floor surfaces in phase 2, which also contained grass tempered wares, provided calibrated radiocarbon dates of AD70-435 (*cal.* 95.4%, UtC-1152).

The excavators noted that structure 5 contained finds that highlighted a significant change in material culture during this period at Kebister.

Five vessels examined in this study were associated with scientific dated contexts. Vessel A3 was excavated from structure 5 (Episode 1, context 515). A date of 470BC-AD5 (*cal.* 95.5%, UtC 1146) was obtained from this horizon (Dalland & MacSween 1999: 106). Vessel C140 was also found in context 515, a date of 190BC-AD340 (*cal.* 95.6%, UtC-1151) was obtained from a barley grain from this layer (*ibid.* 125). Sherds from three vessels (E184, E276 and E261) were also retrieved from a hearth deposit in structure 5 (context 616) dating to 85BC-AD200 (*cal.* 95.8%, GU-2620 - *ibid.* 122).

Table 11: Kebister vessels from dated contexts

Vessel No.	Rim Classification	Fabric classification	Decoration classification	Calibrated Date
A3	R7	F7	D1	470BC-AD5
C140	R1	F5	D8	190BC-AD340
E184	N/A	F1	D6	85BC-AD200
E276	N/A	F1	D6	85BC-AD200
E261	R5	F5	D1	85BC-AD200

The stratigraphy of Kebister and the significance of these dates in the classification of Shetland's IA pottery will be discussed at length in chapter 6.

4.3 Upper Scalloway

The excavation at Upper Scalloway uncovered a multi-phase settlement including a LBA cremation burial, a broch that was occupied for 600 years, and a post-broch settlement that continued in use until the 8th century AD (Sharples 1998). Many pottery types were identified due to varying material cultures being recognised within the multi-period occupation layers. The Upper Scalloway pottery highlights a variable medium of design, style and construction highlighting the changes of human expression over Shetland's IA period. Interestingly, the study shows that the fabric types remain quite constant throughout the period.

4. 3. 1 Fabric

A total of 479 sherds were re-analysed, during this study, from various excavated contexts. The fabric noted remained relatively constant throughout the assemblage with the majority of sherds in groups F5 (36%), F6 (31%) and F7 (23%). This

highlighted a preference for tempered clay, using mixed rock-grits, including quartz, unidentified grey rock and sometimes steatite (F5), grass was also added in 31% of the rock tempered ware (F6) and a large number of sherds were tempered with grass alone (F7). Steatite-only tempered fabric (F4) was less prevalent in the Upper Scalloway assemblage, accounting for only 4% and 5% of the sherds examined were made of untempered clay (F1).

Table 12: Upper Scalloway fabric types

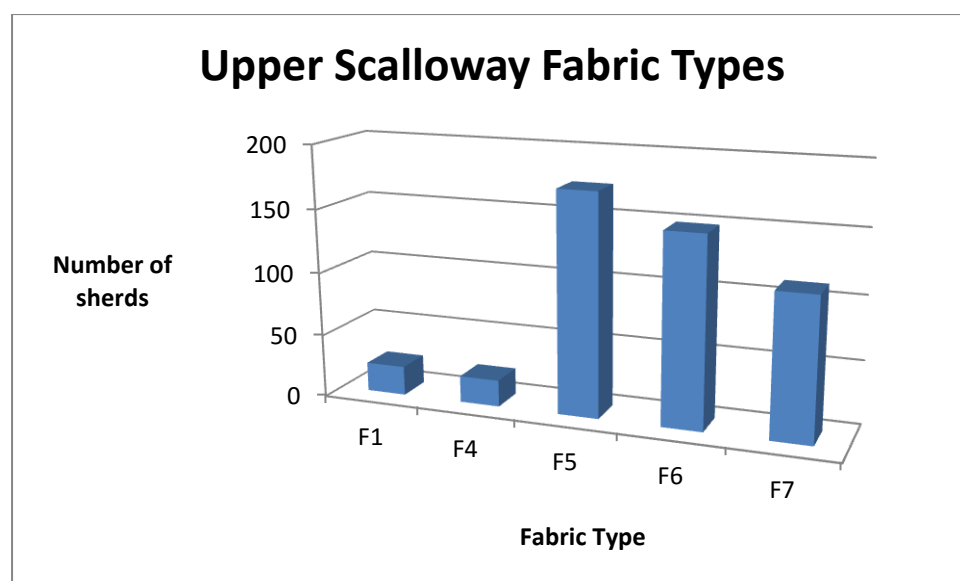


Fig. 39

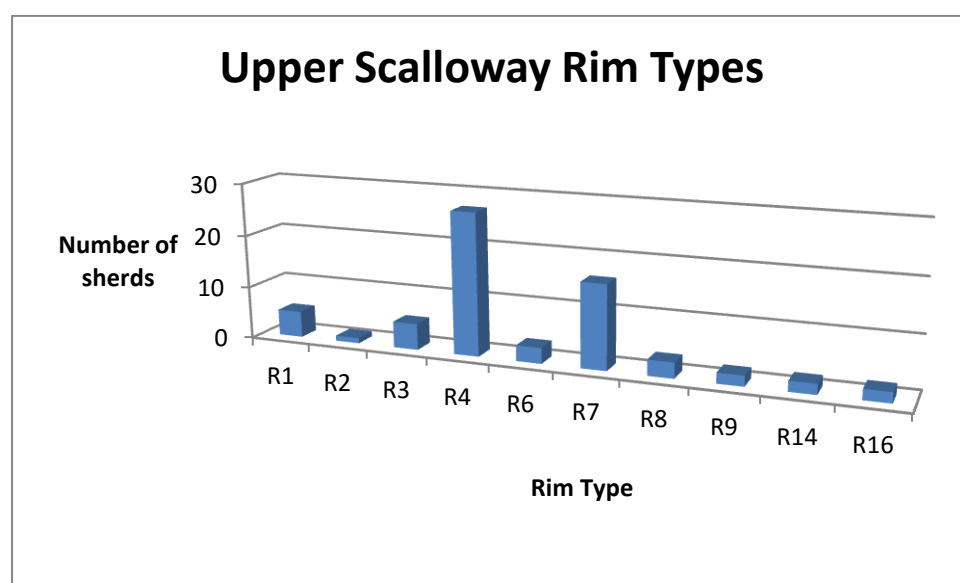
Heavily tempered steatitic ware from Upper Scalloway; fabric Type F4.

4. 3. 2 Rims

Sixty-six rim sherds were identified in the Upper Scalloway sample of which 10 types were identified. The largest percentage, 41%, were plain and everted type R4 (some slightly and others sharply everted); 24% were also plain but inverted of type R7. Other 'plain' type rims were recorded – 5% plain (R1), 4% plain, flattened (R2) and

8% of plain rounded of type R3. Everted rims with a bevelled interior (R6), similar to those found at Clickhimin accounted for 5% of the sample, while the more elaborate 'pie-crust' forms (R14) were evident in 3% of the collection and a unique fluted rim (R10, 3%) was noted. The remaining rims were rolled (R8), and rolled, everted (R9) accounting for 5% and 3% respectively.

Table 13: Upper Scalloway rim types



4. 3. 3 Decoration

From the sample of 479 sherds ten types of decoration were identified. The most prevalent were undecorated type D1 (79%). The next highest percentage (7%) was of a unique decoration type (D17) of horizontal incised or dragged lines over the complete vessel (V 2085; Fig.34). This figure is quite skewed by the fact that quite a lot of the vessel was recovered (thirty-two sherds, of which all were decorated), while other decoration types were only represented by one surviving sherd.



Fig. 40

Vessel V2085 was partially reconstructed by the excavators and is decorated with horizontal lines and an incised-cross on the base (type D17).



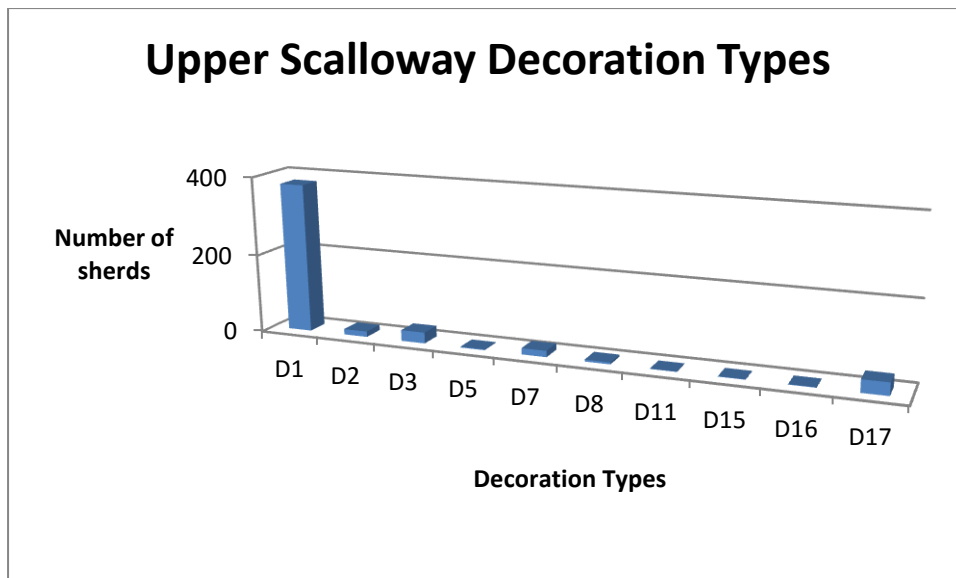
Other decoration types included undecorated vessels that had a shoulder carination (D2, 3%); no decoration but the vessel was burnished (D3, 6%); 3% has incised triangles and parallel-lines (D7); 1% of type D8, with a border of incised horizontal parallel lines with chevrons between. The least common forms of decoration, each with 0.5% of the total number, included type D5, impressed circles and geometric shapes, D11, with 'pie-crust' applied neckband, D15, applied cordons and D16 an unusual design of incised-lines with pin-prick dots (Fig. 41).



Fig. 41

Vessel V667 with unusual lines and pin-prick decoration (type D16). The vessel was also highly burnished.

Table 14: Upper Scalloway decoration types



4.3.4 Dating evidence

Six periods of occupation were identified by Sharples (1998) at Upper Scalloway, four of which are relevant to the periods of this study¹³:

- Phase 1 – Bronze Age – cremation burial underneath broch wall
- Phase 2 – 100BC-AD500 – The broch – Middle Iron Age
- Early Phase 3 – AD500-650 – final phase of Middle Iron Age
- Late Phase 3 – AD650-900 – Late Iron Age

The phasing of the site is also summarised by the buildings (*ibid*):

- Phase 2 – The broch, primary occupation, external phase 2 ditch and ‘hollow’
- Early Phase 3 – External settlement including houses 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7
- Late Phase 3 – Broch reoccupation and broch destruction, external settlement and occupation of house 8
- Final Phase 3 - Structural activity (two walls) immediately above house 8, final fill of the Iron Age ditch and house 9, and middens on the southern slopes

¹³ These dates used by Sharples have now been reviewed following excavations at Old Scatness (see Chapter 6).

Anne MacSween examined the Upper Scalloway assemblage and classified four fabric groups; untempered clay (F1), rock tempered (F5), steatite tempered (F4 and F5) and a few examples of grass tempered (F7) (MacSween 1998: 96). Forty sherds were analysed by thin section¹⁴ which revealed that the clay was local, some being steatitic-clay that would have come from Catpund (*ibid*). MacSween's fabric sequence showed that steatite tempering was predominant in the early phases followed by an increase in rock tempering, and finally untempered clay in the later phases at Upper Scalloway (*ibid*). These fabric classifications are very similar to those identified at Kebister.

Phase 1

The earliest phase included a cremation vessel (V589). This has been entirely reconstructed so could not be reassessed for this study as it was impossible to relate how many sherds had originally been found due to the addition of clay being added for rebuilding. It has an inverted flattened rim (type R7) and is undecorated. The fabric is of type F5 with rock-grits and steatite (noted in the excavation report). The vessel had been broken and repaired in antiquity as three repair holes were present (*ibid*: 12).



Fig. 42

Cremation vessel (V589) with evidence of repair holes, found below the broch wall.

¹⁴ This sectioning is done by removing a 'slice' from the pottery sherd for mineralogical and chemical analysis to identify where the clay originated (see Rice 2005: 371-405).

Phase 2

Pottery from phase 2 at Upper Scalloway, re-assessed in this study, were mostly fabric types F5 and F6 of mixed rock-grits, steatite and grass and a couple of examples of grass tempering (R7). The vessels were mostly undecorated (D1), one was burnished (D3) and an unusually decorated vessel (V2085) of type D17 was found in context 6.7 (Fig. 34). Rim types from phase 2 included plain (R1), plain inverted (R7); everted with internal bevelling (R6) and one example of 'pie- crust' decoration to the rim of type R14 (V1343).

Early Phase 3

This was the smallest group of sherds examined in this sample. Similar to pottery from phase 2 they were of the fabric types F5 and F6, all were undecorated (D1) and only one rim type was noted (R10), plain and fluted (vessel V2271, Fig.37).



Fig. 43

A partly reconstructed vessel from Upper Scalloway (V2271) with an unusual plain fluted rim (type R10).

Late Phase 3

The largest collection in this study came from the late phase 3 assemblage. The sherds were predominantly made of untempered clay (F1). Other fabric types included F5, mixed rock gritted fabric, F6, mixed rock-grits and grass and type F4 (steatite tempered). The majority of these vessels were undecorated (D1). Examples of carinated (D2) and burnished (D3) vessels also appear. The remaining vessels were decorated in various fashions including type D5, impressed-circles and geometric shapes; type D7, incised triangles and parallel-lines; type D16, incised lines and pin prick dots; and type D15 with applied cordons. Rim types were largely plain and everted (R4), with two other examples of plain rim type R1 and R3, plain, rounded.

A large range of radiocarbon dates were obtained from Upper Scalloway and some correspond with the pottery sample for this study (Table 15). Flax seeds retrieved from a hearth in house 8 (horizon described as block 6.2), made it possible to date vessel V1701 to a calibrated date of AD650-880 (AA13803) (Sharples 1998: 63). Described in the reports as 'the hollow' (block 6.7 - phase 2), this context lay outside the broch. It contained articulated bones that were successfully dated to AD 115-445 (GU2924) providing dates for vessels V2026, V471 and V2074 (Campbell *et.al.* 1998: 186).

Table 15: Upper Scalloway Radiocarbon dates relevant to this study

Vessels	New Rim Classification	New Decoration Classification	New Fabric Classification	Block/Context	Un-calibrated Radiocarbon dates BP	Lab number	Calibration 95%	Material
V1701 V2075	R4 R4	D1 D3	F6 F5	6.2 / 631	1275±55	AA-13803	AD650-880	Flax
V1343 V1299 V1494 V1258	R14 R4 R7 R14	D11 D1 D1 D11	F7 F7 F5 F6	7.5 / 764	1625±55	AA13805	AD258-550	Cereal
V2075 V2026 V2085 V471 V2074	R4 R4 R7 D1 R6	D3 D3 D17 D1 D1	F5 F6 F5 F5 F6	6.7 / 219	1730±70	GU-2924	AD115-445	Cattle bones
V1258 V1494 V1343 V1299	R14 R7 R14 R4	D11 D1 D11 D1	F6 F5 F7 F6	7.5 / 680	1620±70	GU-2929	AD250-605	Barley
V866	R2	D1	F6	7.3 / 259	1300±50	GU-3925	AD650-854	Cattle bone
V233		D1	F5	9.2 / 421	1105±55	GU13806	AD790-1020	Oat
V1649	R4	D1	F5	6.1 / 260	1225±60	AA-13804	AD660-960	Oat
V740	R1	D5	F6	7.2 / 5380 7.2 / 547 7.2 / 5380	1280±60 1330±70 1250±70	AA-13808 GU-2926 GU-3935	AD650-890 AD600-860 AD650-950	Human bone Cattle bone Human bone

Parallels can be drawn to the Kebister and Upper Scalloway assemblages. Together these can help build a sequence that can be used to build a typology in other sites such as Mavis Grind and Greista. This will also offer useful data set with which to

compare other sites and stray finds within the Museum collection. This will be explored further in chapter 6.

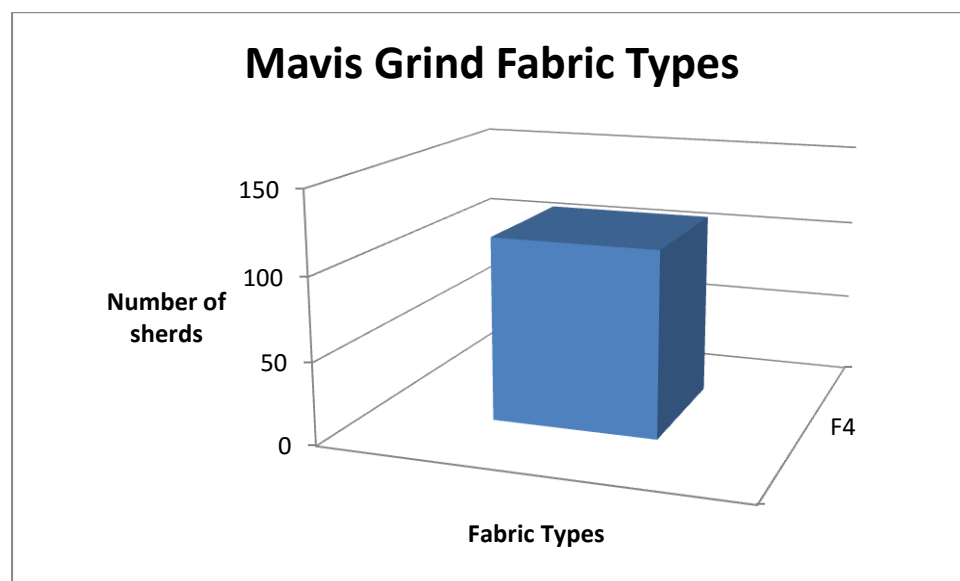
4. 4 Mavis Grind

A large oval house, excavated in the 1970s, Mavis Grind offers a snap shot of life in the LBA and EIA; excavators believe occupation lasted 100-200 years (Cracknell & Smith 1979). 4500 pottery sherds, the vast majority being steatite tempered, were recovered from the dwelling.

4. 4. 1 Fabric

Of the 113 sherds examined all were heavily tempered with steatite, described by the excavators as 'grey ware'. There was little variation in the fabric sort which suggests a constant use of type F4 over the period of occupation. Some sherds displayed evidence of a mica dust being applied to add lustre to the vessel.

Table 16: Mavis Grind fabric types



4. 4. 2 Rims

Of the thirty-eight rim sherds looked at two rim types were identified; 36% were R4, plain everted and the highest proportion of 64% being R12 type, being T-shaped.

Table 17: Mavis Grind rim types

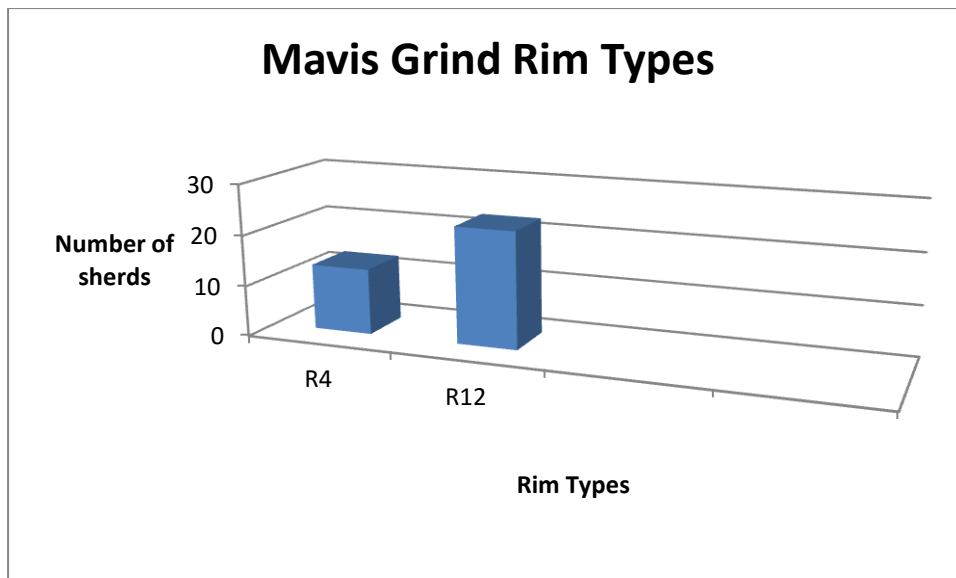


Fig. 44

Rim sherd (MG2549) from Mavis Grind; highlighting flattened rim and steatite tempering.

4. 4. 3 Decoration

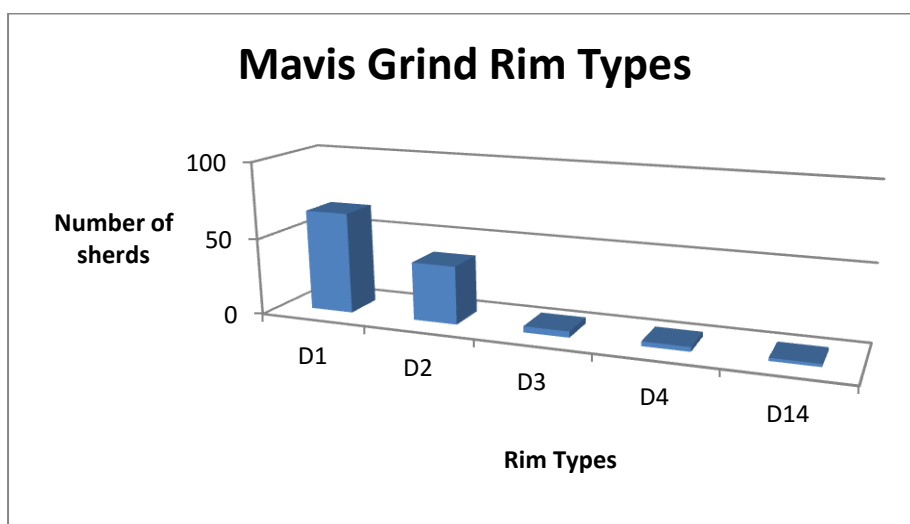
The majority of the 113 sherds, 59%, examined were undecorated therefore D1 type. A further 34% were undecorated but were of type D2, these vessels displayed a carinated shoulder. 7% of sherds were burnished, 4% of these were classed as D3 type and 3% were of type D4, being a carinated vessel. The remaining 2% of sherds were from a single vessel that displayed multiple holes, described by the excavator as a possible colander (Fig. 45). This feature was classified as type D14.



Fig. 45

Sherd from Mavis Grind (MG3255)
described as a colander – type D14.

Table 18: Mavis Grind decoration types



4.4.4 Dating evidence

Four sequences of activity were identified at Mavis Grind

- Phase 1 – pre-building
- Phase 2 – the building and primary occupation of the house
- Phase 3 – the rebuilding and continued occupation of the house
- Phase 4 - the destruction of the house and developments on site

There was no pottery uncovered in the pre-building layers (phase 1). The sherds from phase 2 in the sample analysed in this study were steatite tempered (F4) and all had type R4 rims (plain and everted). Both decorated and burnished ware (D1, D3) was noted in sherds from phase 2.

Phase 3 and 4 pottery (fabric type F4), from the selected sample, was mostly undecorated with no burnishing (D1), only one sherd showed evidence of burnishing (D3) from phase 4. Vessels with shoulder carination (D2) were noted in phases 3 and 4. Three rim types were identified in the pottery from these contexts, predominantly type R12, with flattened or T-shaped rims (Fig. 22); rim type R4, plain everted, was found in both phases.

With only one reliable radiocarbon date, AD20-350 (*cal.* 95%, GU-1508), obtained from Mavis Grind an IA presence is confirmed for the in-situ deposits of the hearth, in the occupation layer in phase 1 (Cracknell & Smith 1983: 33).



Fig. 46

Vessel 1113 with carinated shoulder from phase 4 at Mavis Grind.

4. 5 Catpund

This small assemblage of only thirty-three pottery sherds, including one rim sherd has been included in this study because the dwelling has been identified as a middle to late BA agricultural settlement (Ballin Smith 2005: 1). Artefactual evidence suggests an agrarian economy. While the pottery collection is small the typology of the group will offer a useful tool for comparative studies with the BA material from the other assemblages within this study.

4. 5. 1 Fabric

Two fabric types were identified within the Catpund assemblage; F4 sherds from this group (15%) are largely or wholly-gritted with steatite. The finely to coarsely crushed steatite is found in various proportions from sparse to heavy; and F5, mixed rock-gritted fabric – the temper is of ill-sorted fragments of various rocks including some steatite. Rock-grits include quartz, granite, unidentified grey rock and mica dust (85%).

Table 19: Catpund fabric types

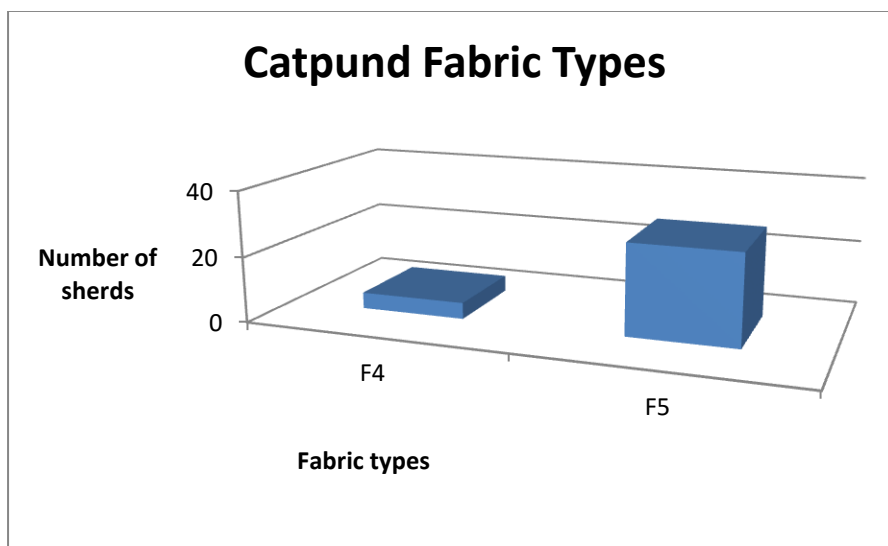


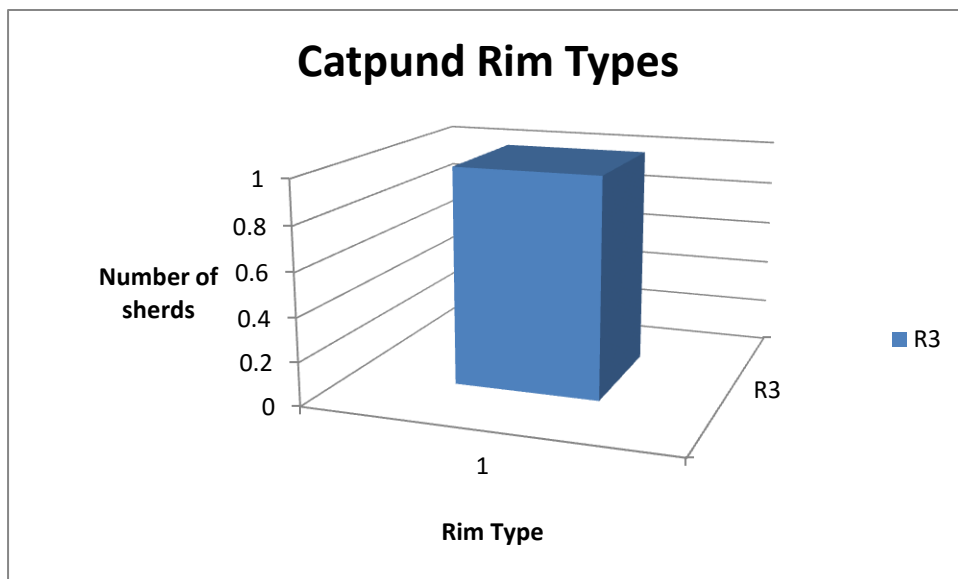
Fig. 47

Steatite tempered sherd 561 from Catpund, showing the coil break.

4. 5. 2 Rims

One rounded plain rim sherd was uncovered at Catpund and identified as type R3 (Fig. 25). Other types of this category were identified at Clickhimin, Greista, Upper Scalloway and Kebister.

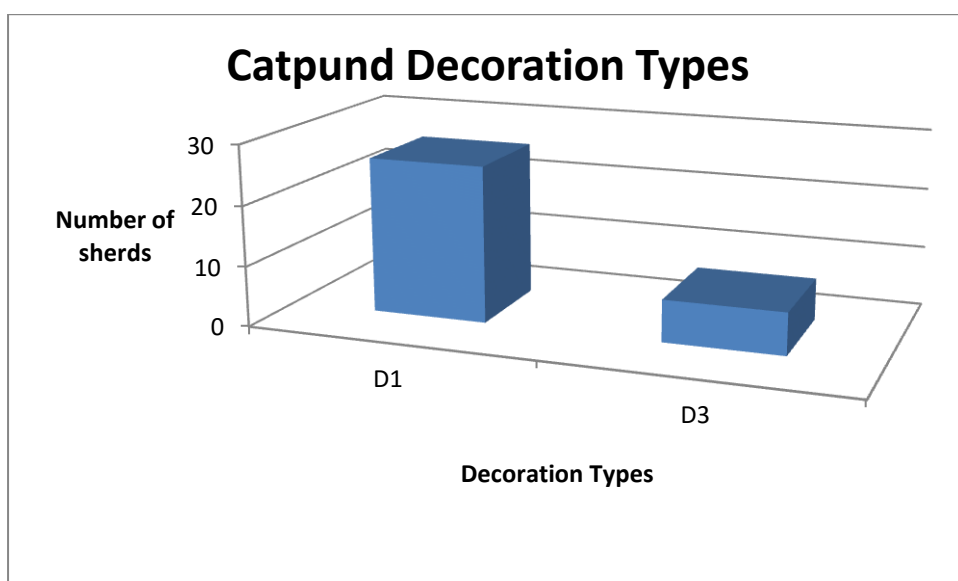
Table 20: Catpund rim types



4. 5. 3 Decoration

There was no incised or impressed decoration identified on the Catpund sherds. 79% of the sherds were type D1, undecorated, while the remaining 21% were burnished, type D3. The lack of other decoration types may suggest the occupants of this farm were only using undecorated pottery, but the assemblage is so limited it may not be representative.

Table 21: Catpund decoration types



4. 5. 4 Dating evidence

It is not possible to accurately date the Catpund house by artefactual evidence alone. No scientific dating was done at Catpund as no suitable material to date recovered (Beverley Ballin Smith, pers. comm.). Excavators noted that the house has been thoroughly cleaned out leaving a dearth of dateable evidence; stone tools and quartz tools were recovered but these were in use over millennia during Shetland's Neolithic, BA and even into the IA period. The pottery and house dimensions are the only clues available.

All pottery came from trench A – the house, from three contexts. From context 15, all pottery sherds were undecorated (D1) and were of fabric type F4 and F5. The only rim (R3) was from this context. Context 7 and 7.10 contained pottery of fabric types F4 and F5, as was the pottery from context 14. Burnished sherds (D3) were found in all contexts except 14.

4. 6 Clickhimin

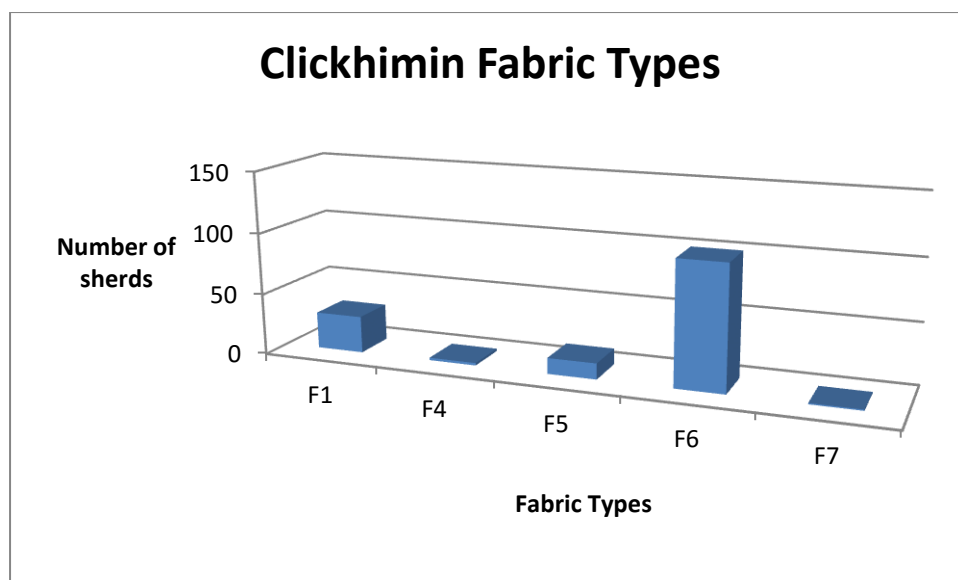
Clickhimin is a multi-period site that has been excavated and disturbed many times over the last 150 years, causing the stratigraphy of the site and the artefactual evidence to be difficult to interpret. This study will go some way in trying to unravel the story of Clickhimin. Pottery classification and comparative studies completed in this study will aid the identification and date of occupation layers. Hamilton concluded (see Chapter 3) that Clickhimin combined a BA farm, IA broch, fort and wheelhouse. It has been suggested that there is no BA occupation at Clickhimin as noted above (Smith 2015; Fojut 1998).

4.6.1 Fabric

A sample of 147 sherds was examined identifying five fabric types. The largest percentage (69%) were type F6 – a mixed fabric including rock-grits, steatite and grass tempering; 20% of the sherds displayed type F1 ware made from untempered clay; 9% was constructed from a mixed rock-grit tempered clay, F5, which included rock-grits of quartz, granite, steatite, unidentified grey rock and mica schist; just over 1% of the sherds were classed as F4 type and wholly steatite tempered while the

remaining 1% was identified as being of type F7, the only temper being added to the clay being grass.

Table 22: Clickhimin fabric types



4.6.2 Rims

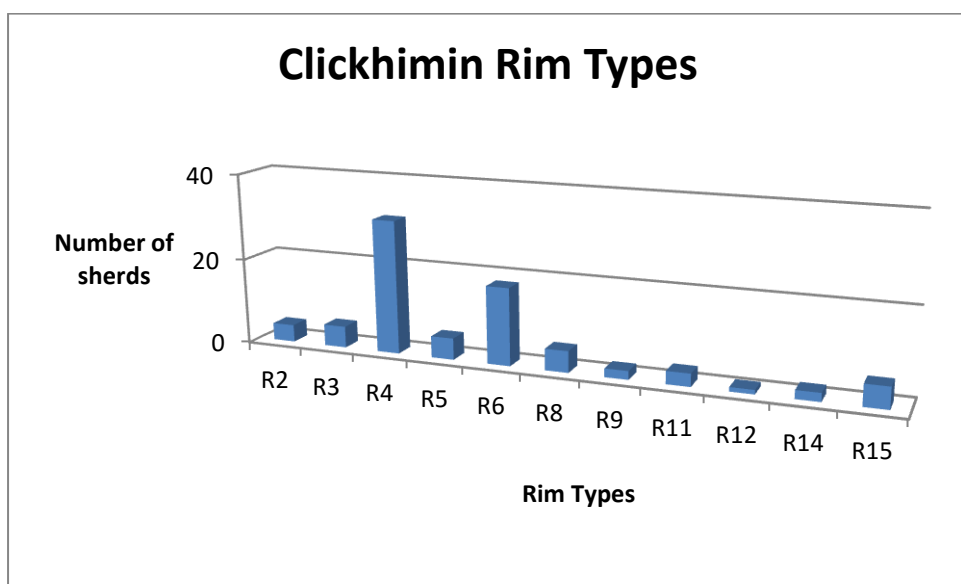
From the Clickhimin sample a total of eighty-one rim sherds were identified relating to 11 classification types. The largest group of rims, 38% were type R4, plain everted including slightly everted; 22% of the rims were everted with interior bevelling (R6); 5% were type R2, plain flattened, while 6% were plain and rounded (R3); R5 with everted faceted or decorated rims accounted for 6% of the sample. The remaining types identified included type R8, rolled (6%); type R9, rolled and everted (2%); type R11, rolled and flattened (4%); R12, flat, squared or T-shaped (1%); R14, Everted rim with applied cordon below rim, classed by archaeologists as a 'pie-crust' neckband, and finally the remaining 6% identified were of another elaborate type, R15, described as everted rounded with applied cordon below rim, deep horizontal slashes on cordon.



Fig. 48

Rim sherd CLN 761 of type R15, with quartz tempering (F5).

Table 23: Clickhimin rim types

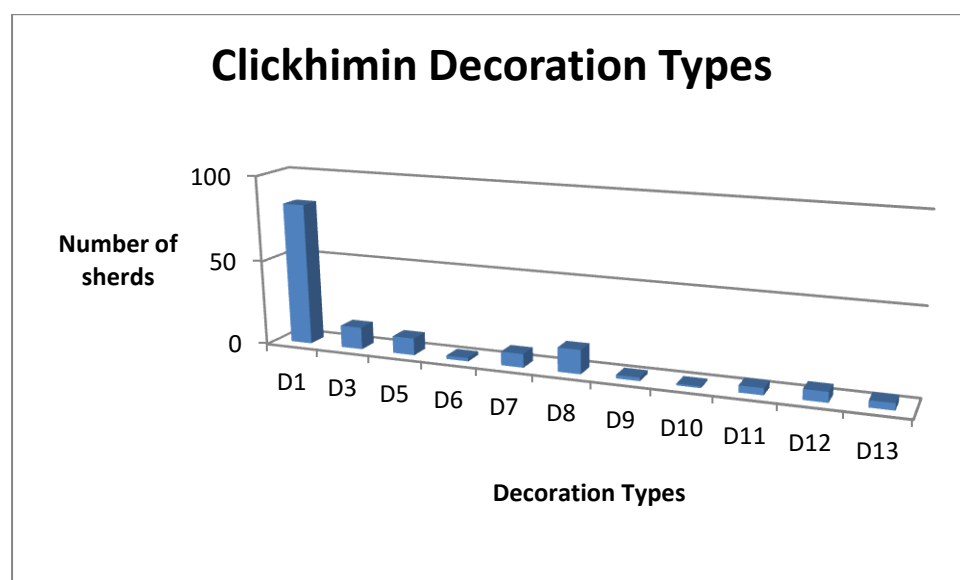


4.6.3 Decoration

Of the 147 sherds processed over half (56%) were of type D1 – undecorated. 10% of sherds represented type D8, having a border of two horizontal and parallel-lines with chevrons between them; type D3, with no decoration but highly burnished was seen in 9% of the sample. Impressed-circles and geometric shapes (type D5) was noted in 7% of the sherds; 4% displayed incised curvilinear and geometric decoration of type D6. Type D7, is recorded in 5% of the sample, exhibiting incised-triangles and parallel-lines; type D9, with simple finger nail impressions accounted for only 1%; similarly 1% was identified as type D10, stabbed decoration applied with a pin or bird bone (CLN 7434). 3% of the sample displayed type D11, ‘pie-crust’ applied neckband; 4% were type D12, with an applied cordon below rim which has deep

incised horizontal slashes; and the remaining 3% were of type D13, an applied cordon with wavy fluting.

Table 24: Clickhimin decoration types



4.6.4 Dating evidence

The Clickhimin site has become an enigma, a puzzle of jumbled excavation over many years that may never be unravelled. This reassessment of Clickhimin's diagnostic pottery will offer indications of pottery trends and dates by comparing the pottery types and classifications to other assemblages of a similar sequence. No scientific dating has been attempted at Clickhimin. When excavated, Hamilton divided the site into many sections and panels, giving numbers, letters and roman numerals (1956: 14, Fig.6). As noted in previous chapters, many of the contexts that were excavated were disturbed by earlier interference (see Smith 2015). It is therefore important to look at the collection without becoming bogged in the mire of confusion that we are left with.

This reassessment of the collection will disregard the series of panels and will look solely at the typology of the assemblage. The Clickhimin collection had previously been kept in the original paper bags and these were labelled by the excavator, most likely Hamilton's own handwriting. The bag labels are confusing, for example, vessel

CLN 7943 is from 'panel 17, layer GG4'. Another is even more confusing; written on vessel CLN 7631's bag is '3A, out, second layer'. They are now kept in modern finds-bags but the original information is recorded on each one.

Hamilton applied the same phasing to Clickhimin as he had done in Jarlshof. Some of these may be accurate while others may not. He also classed the Clickhimin pottery to correspond with the Jarlshof assemblage.

Hamilton (1968) summarised the pottery by class types:

- Native ware – Bronze Age class 1 – heavily steatite tempered grey ware with carinated shoulders
- Iron Age Class 1 – steatitic ware – shoulders sharply carinated shoulders
- Iron Age Class 2 – non-steatitic ware, some decorated
- Wheelhouse pottery – decorated wares with many rim forms

A comprehensive review of the Clickhimin pottery will be discussed in Chapter 6. Comparisons will be made with assemblages from Kebister, Upper Scalloway, Underhoull broch in Unst and the new data set produced in the recent excavations at Old Scatness.

4.7 Greista

This unpublished site yielded 79 sherds of pottery, which included an incomplete and rudely reconstructed pot (done at the time of excavation); this lugged pot may have held a cremation burial.

4.7.1 Fabric

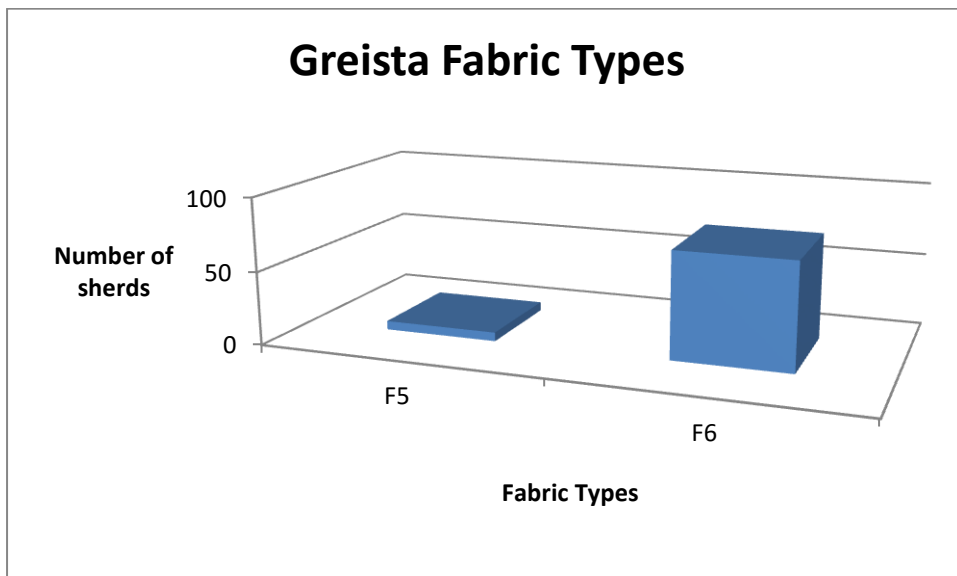
Two fabric types were identified within the Greista assemblage – the majority being of F6 type (92%) - mixed fabric including rock-grits, steatite and grass or chaff. The remaining 8% was identified as F5 type - mixed rock-gritted fabric – the temper is of ill-sorted fragments of various rocks including some steatite. Rock-grits include quartz, granite, unidentified grey rock and mica dust.



Fig. 49

Burnished sherd from Greista with hole which may have been used for hanging the vessel.

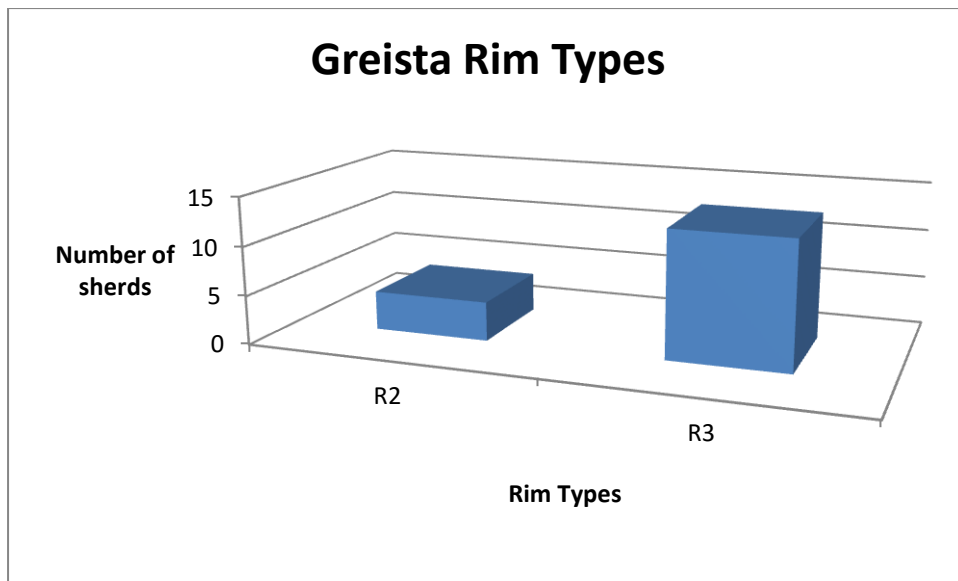
Table 25: Greista fabric types



4.7.2 Rims

Seventeen rim sherds were identified in the Greista assemblage, of which two types were identified. The majority of rims (76%) are of type R3 (plain, rounded) the remaining 24% being R2 – plain and flattened.

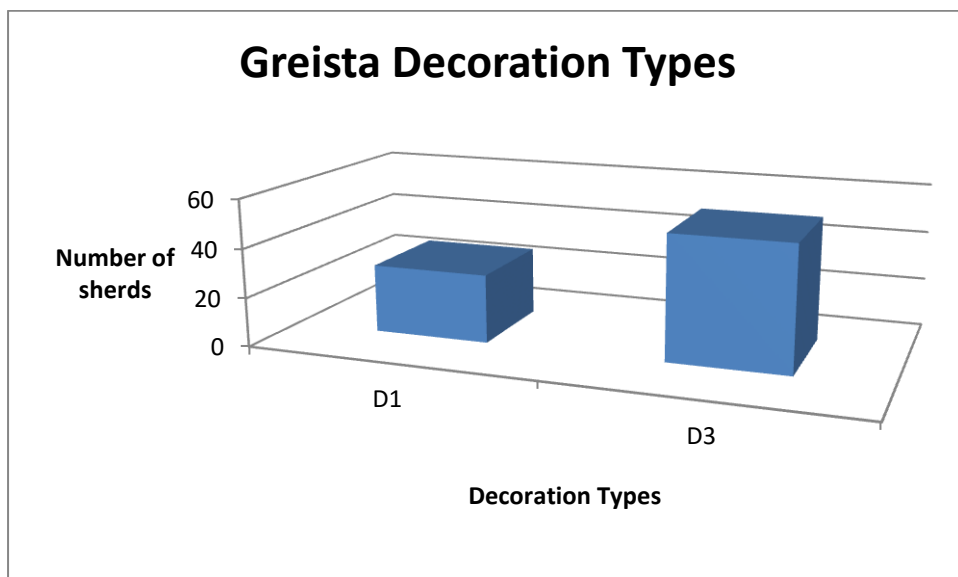
Table 26: Greista rim types



4.7.3 Decoration

The Greista assemblage did not contain any sherds with incised or applied decoration but 65% of them were highly burnished (type D3). The remaining 35% were undecorated, type D1.

Table 27: Greista decoration types



4.7.4 Dating evidence

Having been excavated by amateur archaeologists in the 1970s, Greista has no scientific dating evidence, so typology offers the only means of dating the site at present. The Greista assemblage should perhaps be considered and discussed as two different groups; the pottery from the 'dark-loam' layer and the lugged pot from the pit. Excavators revealed a 12-14 inch layer of 'dark-loam' which contained the group of pottery sherds. This layer was possibly linked with the stone walling, perhaps an occupation layer inside a dwelling. This context may well be from a later period, built over the pit which contained the lugged pot. This highly burnished and lugged vessel may therefore be earlier, possibly BA in date if it held a cremation burial, when cremation was most common (Turner 1998: 53-54). That said, the fabric types are very similar and some of the other sherds from the upper contexts were also burnished.

4.8 Ness of Sound

This unpublished site generated 249 sherds of pottery, retrieved from 'Squares' 2, 3 and 5. Shetland Museum have no records from the excavation so understanding these 'squares' is a mystery for the moment. Three bags containing a total of twenty-five sherds do not have any context information on them. A portion of the sherds have been very crudely reconstructed using thick clear glue mixed with sand (Fig. 50). This was presumably done by the excavators or museum staff following excavation.

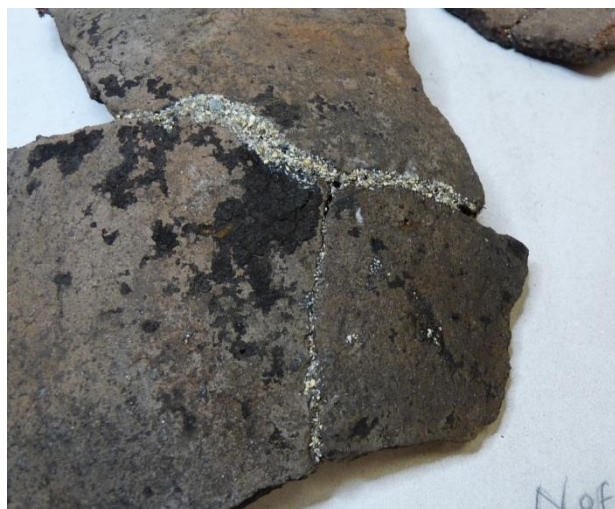


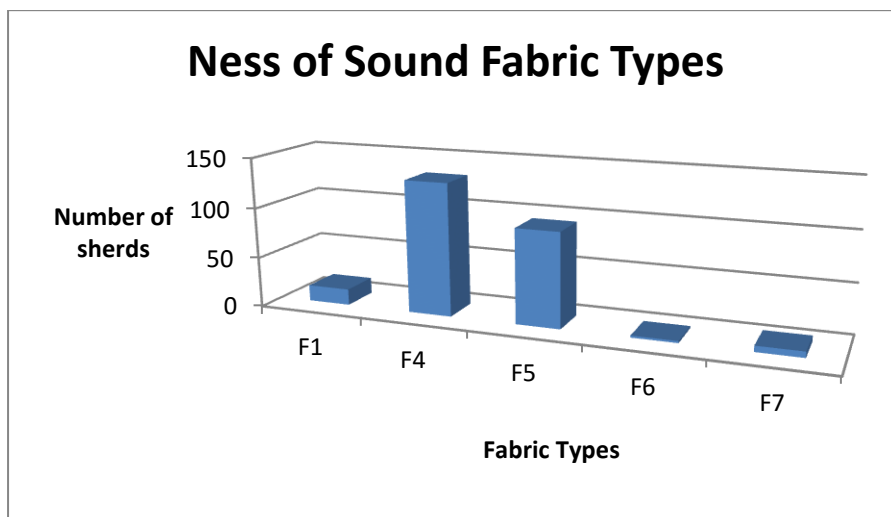
Fig. 50

Three sherds (Find no. N41) from Ness of Sound, badly reconstructed using a mixture of clear glue and coarse sand.

4.8.1 Fabric

Five fabric types were identified within the Ness of Sound assemblage, the majority having steatite inclusions. Fabric F4, steatite tempering only, was represented in 53% of the collection, and F5, a mixture of steatite and rock-grits, accounting for 38%. This denotes a total of 91% of the assemblage has steatite added to the clay. 6% of the sherds were untempered (F1) sandy clay. Some grass tempering was noted in the remaining sample, 2% being the only inclusion (F7) and the remaining 0.5% having grass mixed with rock-grits (F6).

Table 28: Ness of Sound fabric types



4.8.2 Rims

A total of twenty-two rim sherds were identified; 8.8% of the assemblage. Four rim types were identified in the Ness of Sound collection; the most predominant form being plain and flattened (type R2) represented in 55% of the rim sherds. 23% were plain (R1), 14% were plain and rounded (R3) and only one vessel (two rim sherds) had a rolled rim (R8).

Table 29: Ness of Sound rim types

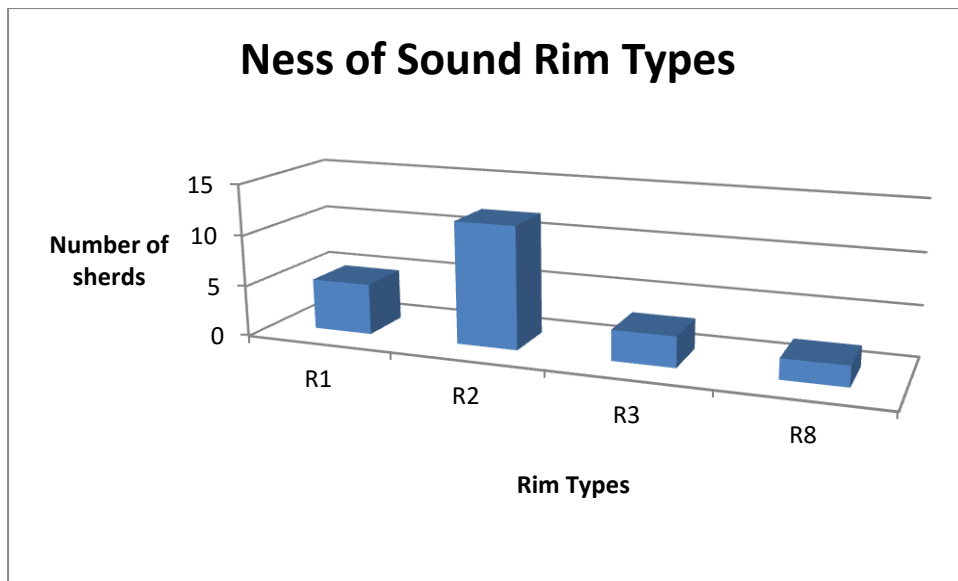


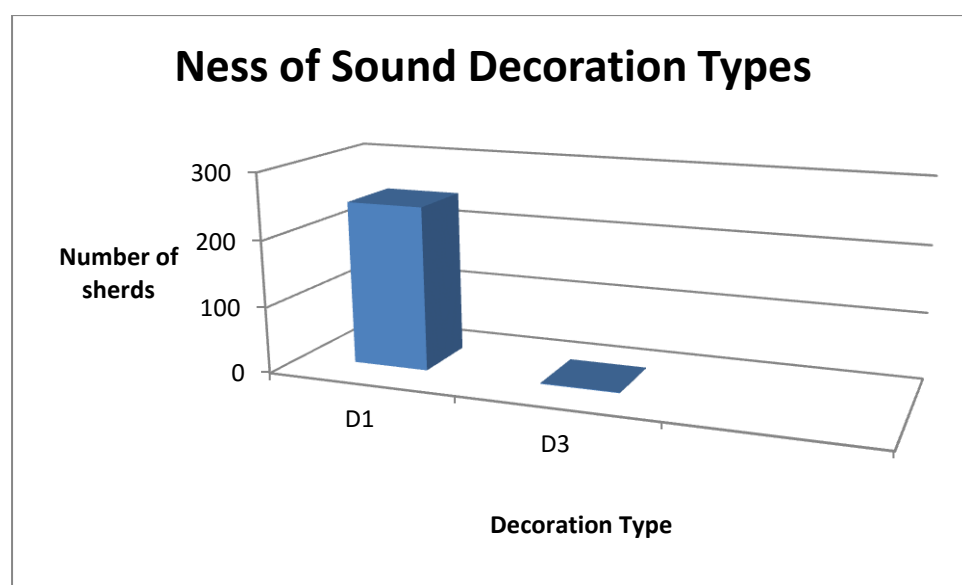
Fig. 51

Rolled Rim (N15) from Ness of Sound.

4.8.3 Decoration

There was no incised or impressed decoration of any type in the Ness of Sound assemblage. 99.5% were completely undecorated (type D1), and only one sherd appeared to be burnished, type D3, (Find no. N26) accounting for the remaining 0.5% of the decoration categories.

Table 30: Ness of Sound decoration types



4.8.4 Dating evidence

Amongst the artefacts listed by Dr Small (DES 1972) was a wooden ‘shovel’ or ‘paddle’. It was found within the stone tank (Shetland Times August 25th 1972). The shovel was not delivered with the Ness of Sound assemblage to Shetland museum in the 1990s so is now presumed lost. This is very unfortunate as surviving wooden tools are extremely rare in the archaeological record (see Murray 2011). A letter from Dr Small to Dr Sumi Yokoyama, in Tokyo, Japan, in 1972 confirms he had sent wood samples for radiocarbon dating (SA7/1/8/10/2). He describes these samples as being found under the ‘archaeology’ (so presumably not the wooden spade). Dr Yokoyama returned the results of these C14 dates in December 1972; (Lab No. N-1502), 6020 ±145BC - 5850±140BC, from a period in the Islands before any recorded settlement has yet to be found. One sample of spruce offered a date of 3200BC (*ibid*). This fits with Shetland’s earlier Neolithic period and does not correspond with the burnt mound structure built above where the wood was presumably identified. Dr Small also sent wood samples to Professor J.S. Murray, at Aberdeen University, for identification in 1973 (SA7/1/8/1/11/3/1). His report identifies various tree types from different contexts:

- 'Square 78' – Willow
- 'Square 69A' – Willow and Spruce
- 'Above 69' – Spruce and Holly

These references to squares 69-78 highlight the fact that Small must have recorded tens of contexts during his excavation. These wood samples most likely did not correspond with the pottery assemblages from contexts 2, 3 and 5. It is unfortunate that no context plans survive.

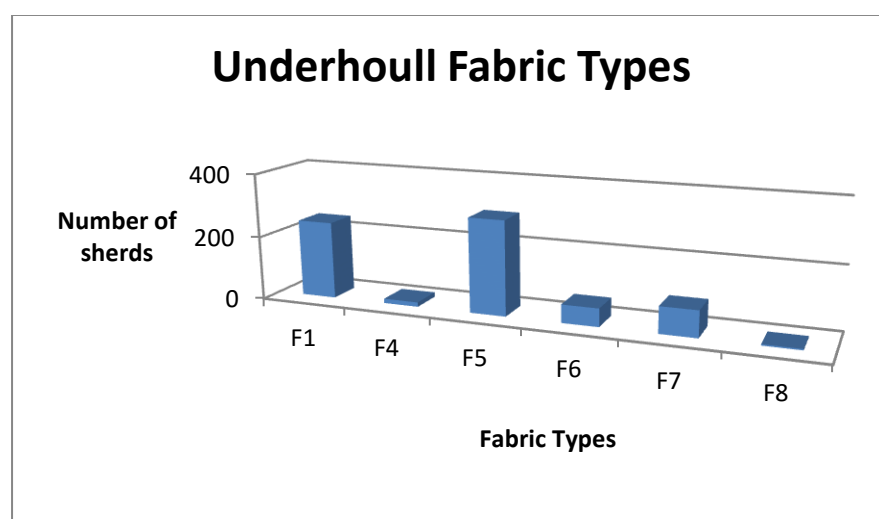
4.9 Underhoull

The most northerly site in this study was published by Alan Small (1964). Unfortunately, no site records have survived (Brian Smith, pers. comm.). Finds lists do survive and record where the artefacts were recovered, such as 'workshop' and 'broch period hut'. These lists include the many hundreds of pottery sherds uncovered. Diagnostic sherds were identified from these lists and a total of 697 were re-analysed during this study. Discrepancies were noted; some finds-bags did not contain the sherds described on the list, other bags contained diagnostic pieces not listed and some sherds were not as described by Small.

4.9.1 Fabric

Six variants of fabric classifications were noted at Underhoull. Rock tempered clay, F5, was the most common in 43% of the sherds analysed. These grits were mostly unidentified grey rock, some steatite and mica schist. 35% of the sherds were made of untempered clay, some of which is quite coarse, making it difficult to determine whether this was pure clay or if greatly-crushed rock-grits had been added. Fabric type F7, tempered with grass only accounted for 12% and a further 8% was tempered with rock-grits and grass (F6). 2% of the sherds were tempered with steatite (F4) and the remaining 1% had grog (crushed pottery) added of type F8; this is the only time grog has been noted as a tempering agent in all eight assemblages looked at for this study although a sherd from the stray-finds (also from Unst) is tempered with grog (ARC 2002.291 – see Appendix 7 & 8).

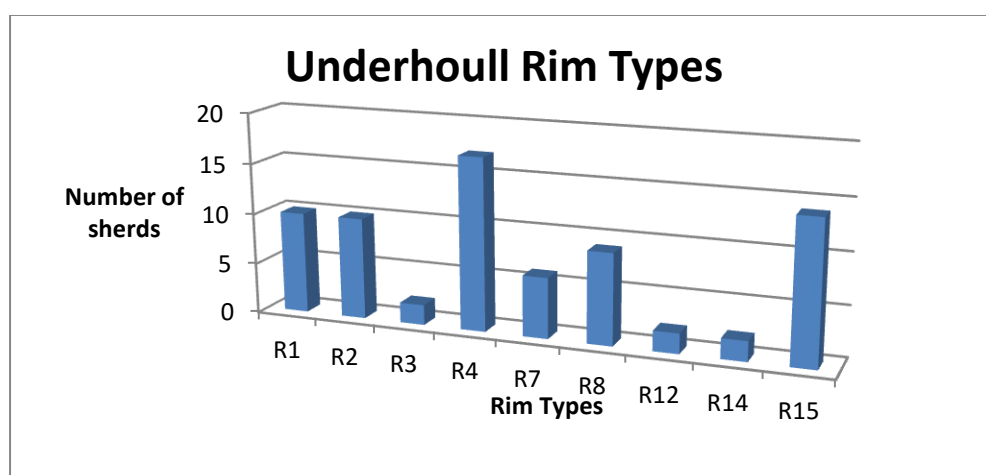
Table 31: Underhoull fabric types



4.9.2 Rims

Nine rim types were identified in the Underhoull assemblage. The most common, 19%, was type R4, a plain everted rim, followed by quite elaborately decorated rims of type R15 with applied 'slashed' cordons. Plain rims, R1, accounted for 14% as did plain, flattened (R2), and a further 13% of rolled rim type R8. Type R12 (flat, squared) and R14 ('pie-crust' decorated) accounted for 3% each and a further 3% were of type R3, plain rounded. Interestingly, some of the sherds described by Small in his finds lists were classed as 'rolled' when in fact they are of the plain rounded type, one with an incised-line below the rim that made it look as if it had been rolled (Find No. K5C). Small also identified rims which he described as 'applied band missing' within the workshop area; many of the sherds are very much abraded and so it was not possible to verify if these rim sherds displayed 'missing bands' or simple abrasion. This will be further discussed in Chapter 6.

Table 32: Underhoull rim types



4.9.3 Decoration

Most of the sherds (72%) from Underhoull were undecorated of type D1. The majority of decorated sherds (12%) demonstrated an applied cordon with deeply incised horizontal slashes of type D12 and 0.5% had a 'pie-crust' cordon below the rim (D11); a further 11% were of type D2 with a carinated shoulder; 1% of the sherds were burnished (D3) and 0.5% had incised chevron pattern of type D18, (Fig. 41). Sherds displaying incised horizontal lines and triangles (D7) accounted for 1%; the final 1% exhibited incised curvilinear design (D6) on the body of the pot.

Table 33: Underhoull decoration types

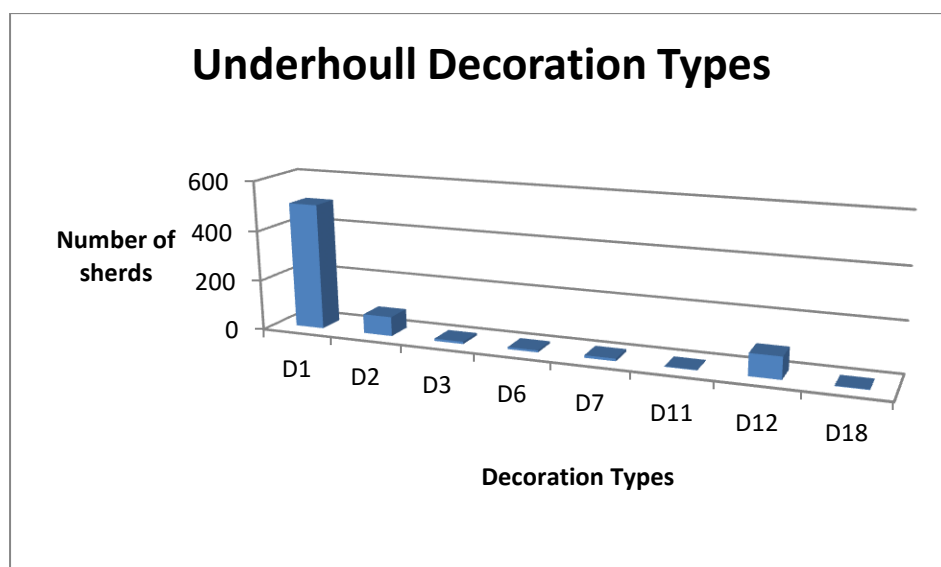




Fig. 52

Underhoull sherd with incised chevron pattern of type D18 (Find No. UH28).

4.9.4 Dating evidence

Like many sites excavated in Shetland before the 1970s, pottery and small finds were used to support the dating of Underhoull. Small, like others before him, used Jarlshof as his guide to pottery typology (1964). Small describes two layers of IA occupation; an EIA hut with associated souterrain and a later 'Broch period' hut with an adjacent workshop, he believed to be an area for pottery manufacturing (Small 1964: 234).

Pottery from the 'Early Iron Age' hut included steatite tempered ware with carinated shoulders and thickly made reddish ware, also with steatite content (Small 1964: 229). These he compares to similar wares from Jarlshof as classified by Hamilton (1956); he dates these to the broch period, 1st century BC – 2nd century AD (Small 1964: 230-232). No scientific dating has yet been undertaken of Underhoull's Iron Age layers.

4.10 The stray finds

The stray finds of prehistoric pottery in the Shetland Museum collection are contained in six drawers (545mm x 450mm). Only the diagnostic sherds, rims, decorated body sherds and bases were assessed for this study. These sherds included pottery that was of Neolithic or EBA date and will not be discussed here. The 206 sherds assessed in this study offer new light to when these pots were constructed. These were recorded and photographed and new insights added to the museum database.

One sherd, ARC 81358 from Westing, Unst has a pie-crust rim (R14) and is made from grass and rock-grit tempered clay (F6), dating it to the MIA (0-400AD). Further grass tempered sherds include ARC 66251 found at Jarlshof, and ARC 1990.233

also from Unst. The Unst sherd is decorated with incised vertical strokes and is very similar to sherd SF37854 from structure 22 at Old Scatness (Brown 2015: 322, Fig. 7.2.13). The records for these have now been updated, placing them in the Middle to Late Iron Age period.



Fig. 53

Unst sherds ARC 81358 and ARC 1990.233 have grass tempering and decoration of Middle Iron Age type.

Grass tempering with rock grits (F6) was also noted in sherds from known IA sites including Broch of Burgataing in Northmavine; Muckle Yard (F7, grass only) and East Shore Broch, Dunrossness; Sandwick and Balta Isle in Unst; Burgi Geos (Steatite and grass) and West Ayre Hillswick (see Appendix 7) . These sherds are all undecorated although a couple of the vessels have been burnished. The rim sherds include plain everted of type R4 (one sharply everted, inverted (R7) and squared (R12).

An interesting assemblage of twenty seven sherds, amounting to eleven vessels (see Appendices 7 & 8) was donated to the museum over fifty years ago by Robert Bairnson. The Iron Age Wiltrow house and smeltery was on his farm land and following his time working with Curle at Jarlshof in the 1930s he undertook a 'slight excavation' of the structures (Curle 1936: 153). He uncovered stone tools, iron slag and some pottery (*ibid*). Bairnson alerted Curle to the site, who then undertook excavation in the early 1930s. Curle dated the site to the EIA due to his discovery of iron and pottery being in the same context; some of the sherds had iron adhering to them (1936: 167). The finds are held in Edinburgh but the pottery originally found by Bairnson was donated to the Shetland Museum.

Many of these sherds are decorated with incised-lines, and triangles (type D7) and chevrons (D18). The fabric is mostly tempered with rock-grits and steatite (F3 with large grits and F5 which is finer), one vessel is untempered (F1). Rim types included in the Bairnson collection are plain (R1) and everted (R4). Curle's collection includes plain flattened (R2) inverted (R7), sharply everted (R4), beaded (R13) and squared rims (R12), (Curle 1936: 168). One squared rim has incised chevron decoration across the top, almost identical to sherd CLN 7678 from Clickhimin broch. This is a perplexing collection in that the incised and shell impressed decoration has similarities with the Stanydale and Ness of Gruting BA assemblages, but also has similarities to the nearby site at Sumburgh Airport (see Sheridan 2013: 55 for discussion of Wiltrow collection held in Edinburgh). The incised sherds from Wiltrow have parallels with the decorated sherds from the EIA horizons at Sumburgh (see Downes & Yarrington 2000: 57, Fig. 26). A further reassessment, (using this database and newly developed categorisation system) of this material alongside Curle's assemblage in Edinburgh is necessary to fully understand the collection. Wiltrow may be a multi-period site, very similar to Sumburgh Airport, and we have no way of knowing what layers Bairnson accessed during his excavation or if they correspond with Curle's assemblage. Sheridan suggests we are dealing with a 'palimpsest of activities' from a pre-existing house being reoccupied with an IA smithy (Sheridan 2013: 61). A future detailed analysis of the full collection is therefore recommended.



Fig. 54

Left: sherds from Robert Bairnson's Wiltrow collection, Right: Photographs of Wiltrow pottery from Curle's publication.

Image (right): Curle 1936: 167, Illus. 14

4.11 Trends identified in this study

What has become apparent with excavation, and has been verified by this research, is that pottery trends in Shetland were enduring over centuries. This is especially applicable to steatite tempered fabrics which persist over millennia. As noted by Sheridan, the Shetland assemblages are localised interpretations of national trends (2012: 30). Despite the complexities of LBA and IA pottery as previously discussed, trends in fabric, rim type and decoration can be established. During the LBA clay is tempered with steatite and rock-grits (mainly types F3, F4 and F5). The analysis of rim types over the eight sites show prevalence for plain rims (R1), rounded (R3), inverted (R7), plain flattened (R2), rolled (R8) and squared (R12) during the same period. Carinated and barrel-shaped vessels are the norm and there is some burnishing of vessel surfaces. During the EIA these trends continue although decoration becomes more popular, including incised linear designs often employed between two parallel-lines. The rim types noted above continue but a rise in everted rims (R4), some with bevelling (R6) appear in the record.

It is during the MIA period that new trends become more apparent in the archaeological record. While steatite tempering is still evident an increase in quartz inclusions begins to be noted, sometimes mixed with steatite. The introduction of grass tempering is also noted as are vessels made with untempered clay. This is especially noted during the latter half of this period (AD0-400) as steatite tempering wanes. The use of grog as a tempering agent appears in Unst but is not identified elsewhere in this study. Carinated vessels are still seen and burnishing to a high polish increases at this time.

Pottery used during the MIA period becomes richly decorated, especially during the first four centuries AD. Incised decoration continues, with parallel-lines and herring-bone designs as well as curvilinear and spiral motifs appearing in the record. Decorated vessel bases are noted for the first time, both crossed and spiral. It is during the late phase (AD0-400) that boldly decorated rims become popular; these include pie-crust and slashed cordons added below the rim of the vessel. These pots are predominantly grass-tempered.

By the LIA steatite inclusions are very uncommon and the trend for untempered clay becomes more apparent. Rock-grits are still used, especially quartz. Rim types are

primarily rounded (R3); flattened (R2) and squared (R12). Beaded rims (R13) now become more obvious in the record. Pots become increasingly ovoid shaped and shouldered vessels displaying long necks become a new trend during the Late Iron Age period. Decoration becomes more refined with intricate patterns emerging, including crenellation designs and impressed circles.

A reflective discussion of the trends noted above will be discussed at length in the following chapters.

Chapter 5

The following discussion will compare what was previously known about Shetland Museum's BA pottery assemblages to the new data gathered and documented above in Chapter 4. Former theories about these collections will be challenged while others stand verified by this study.

5.1 Bronze Age Shetland

To put it bluntly, there was a rich Neolithic 'full package' in Shetland, but no Neolithic in Norway. There was no Bronze Age in Shetland, while a rich Bronze Age culture...was prospering in Norway. In the Bronze Age, Norway was an integrated part of a large scale European network of communication, while Shetland was more or less cut off from that network. (Kaul 2011: 47)

This is an interesting quote written by an eminent Scandinavian BA specialist, Flemming Kaul, following a visit to Shetland. There are reasons, no doubt, why he came to these conclusions, but while evidence of bronze working is sparse, there are indications that BA Shetlanders were not 'cut-off' from the full BA cultural package (see Turner 1998; Whittle 1986; Daughton 2014; Owen & Lowe 1999; Moore & Wilson 1999). The Scottish Bronze Age is traditionally accepted as 2500 – 800BC (Downes 2012: iii) but Regional Archaeologist, Val Turner, suggests 1800-600BC is a more realistic time scale for Shetland, following a prolonged Neolithic period (1998: 51). She also notes that bronze material does not show in the archaeological record until the end of that era, suggesting Shetland never experienced the Early or Middle Bronze Age, as noted elsewhere (*ibid*). Dr Alison Sheridan, Curator of Early Prehistory at National Museums Scotland, suggests Shetland remained essentially Neolithic until around 1500BC, much later than the first 'beaker' style pottery appears in the Shetland record around the 23rd century BC. (Sheridan 2012: 27, 2013: 65).

So, what was happening in Shetland during the Bronze Age? Far from being an isolated and destitute community, the material culture from this period suggests an ongoing and changing society; funerary practices transform with the emergence of stone-lined cist burials, some with single crouched interments, others with cremation

burials in steatite or pottery urns as noted at Asta¹⁵, Tingwall (Corrie 1931), Fraga, Scatness (Bryce 1932), Upper Scalloway (Sharples 1998), and Kebister (Owen & Lowe 1999). Cremated bone discovered in an urn made of steatitic clay from Culla Voe, Yell, has produced a calibrated Radiocarbon date of 1890-1680BC (GrA-24056), another from a steatite urn from Uyea in Northmavine (GrA-21621), generating a calibrated date of 790-410 BC (Sheridan 2007: 184). These dates are within Turner's time-frame for BA Shetland. New pottery styles were also emerging. The beaker, synonymous with BA culture, does appear in Shetland's archaeological record noted in assemblages from Ness of Gruting (Calder 1955), Scord of Brouster (House 2: Whittle *et al* 1986) Tougs (Hedges 1986) Sumburgh Airport (Downes & Lamb 2000) and Benie Hoos¹⁶, Whalsay (Calder 1961). Radiocarbon dates, recently obtained from organic residue within a steatite vessel, has dated Benie Hoos to 1740-1530 BC (*cal.* GrA-29373), within Shetland's BA period (Sheridan 2005: 183; 2011:27).

Sheridan has recently re-assessed Shetland's BA pottery, curated in Edinburgh, and has highlighted the appearance and subsequent regional evolution of Beaker pottery within the isles (Sheridan 2012; 2013). She notes: 'The development of Shetland Beaker style pottery is unmistakably localised' (2012: 30).

LBA assemblages, including material from burnt mounds have been re-assessed within the parameters of this study and will be discussed at length below. Pottery from an undated burnt mound, Ness of Sound, has been analysed and the findings are compared to other assemblages such as Tangwick and Cruester identifying analogies in fabric, decoration and rim type.

5.2 Burnt Mounds

While the oval house building tradition continued in Shetland during this era¹⁷, a new monument appears in the archaeological record; burnt mounds are found throughout the islands, in keeping with parallels around Scotland (Moore & Wilson 1999: 232).

¹⁵ An unusual double layered stone cist containing a steatite cinerary urn and an unburnt inhumation (Corrie 1931).

¹⁶ Also known as Beynie House

¹⁷ Ness of Gruting (Calder 1955), Benie Hoos (Calder 1961), Sumburgh Airport (Downes & Lamb 2000) and Scord of Brouster (Whittle *et al* 1986)

There are currently 346 burnt mounds recorded in Shetland (Doughton 2014: 82). These large mounds, of fire-cracked stones, often crescentic in shape, have built up over time around a central stone-lined water tank.

Burnt mounds have traditionally been accepted to be a place where cooking of some description took place, due to the rock heating technology and central water tank (Doughton 2014). This hypothesis is supported by the presence of pots, many showing evidence of being used for cooking. Pottery has been noted at several burnt mounds which have been excavated in Shetland; Tougs (Hedges 1986), Tangwick (MacSween 1999), Kebister (Owen & Lowe 1999), Cruester (Moore & Wilson 2014), and Ness of Sound (Small 1972).

5.2.1 Dating Burnt Mounds

Archaeologist, Iona Campbell-Anthony's Doctoral thesis has revised the dates of three burnt mounds in Shetland using Radiocarbon and Thermoluminescence dating (2003) - see Table 34.

Table 34: Burnt Mound dates (Campbell-Anthony 2003: 318)

Site	Number of dates	Duration of burnt mound use	Age range Years BC
Cruester, Bressay	31	1185±175	2400-900
Houlls, East Burra	4	1850±350	1900-200
Loch of Garths, Nesting	10	1325±475	3200-1±

The range of dates obtained by Campbell-Anthony show a wide duration of burnt mound activity from 3200- 200BC, each with a lifespan of between one and two thousand years. Evidence from Cruester and Loch of Garths show continued use from the turn of the fourth millennium BC, throughout the BA until they go out of use at the beginning of the IA (*ibid*).

Burnt mounds at Tougs and Tangwick have also produced radiocarbon dates. Excavations were undertaken at Tougs, on Burra Isle in 1977 (Hedges 1986). An oval house, burnt mound and field system were investigated and pottery was

recovered from the domestic and burnt mound contexts. A radiocarbon date, from organic material within the burnt mound's water tank, produced a date of 2009BC and another from a peat layer under the construction of the mound, of 2121BC, led Hedges to conclude the mound at Tougs was constructed in the early part of the BA (1986: 25). He suggests the pottery recovered, including a cord-impressed beaker, concurs with this date (*ibid*).

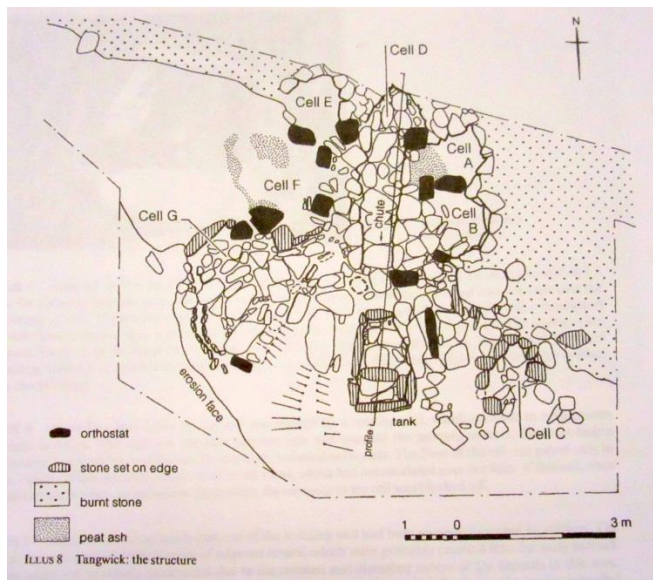


Fig. 55

Excavator's drawing of the burnt mound at Tangwick, Eshaness.

(Moore & Wilson 1999: 214, Illus. 8)

The burnt mound and cellular structure at Tangwick, Eshaness was excavated during 1996. Two radiocarbon dates were produced (Table 35). A charred cereal grain collected from a context under the primary mound (phase 1, context F24) produced a calibrated date of 1880-1520BC (*cal.* 95%, OxA-8195). However, the authors suggest this may not be secure as the sample may relate to burning activity which predates the building of the primary mound (Moore & Wilson 1999: 227). The second date was attained from fragments of a charred iris rhizome from a horizon layer over the primary mound deposits, adjacent to the cellular structure. Thought to be from a 'clearing out' episode, refuse discarded from the structure during one of the water heating activities, this layer contained many pottery sherds and produced a date of 1100-850BC (*cal.* 95%, OxA-8196).

Table 35: Tangwick burnt mound dates (Moore & Wilson 1999: 227)

Site	Sample	Lab No.	Years BP	Calibrated dates – 1 sigma	2 sigma
Tangwick	F24	OxA-8195	3390±55	1760-1620BC	1880-1520BC
Tangwick	F48	OxA-8196	2815±40	1015-915BC	1100-850BC

Scientific dating of burnt mound sites is helpful in the identification of pottery trends noted in these structures and domestic settlements during this period. Pottery from Tangwick, Tougs and Cruester will be compared to the Ness of Sound assemblage for this study and this will be discussed at length below.

5.3 Bronze Age difficulties

Returning to Kaul's thoughts on Shetland's Bronze Age, he suggests the Islands had become isolated and were not part of the wider European ideological community (2011: 46). While proof of BA culture is evident within the Islands, the consumption of bronze is late. Turner notes that by the time bronze was being utilised in Shetland, around 700BC, the rest of Britain has begun to work with iron (1998: 58). Whittle suggests EBA metalwork is notable by its absence; one tanged knife from Northmavine, a MBA spear from Lunnasting and the inferential evidence of clay moulds at Jarlshof (Whittle 1989: 168; Hamilton 1956: 29). Given the islands distance from Cornwall, where Britain's only source of tin necessary to make bronze was available, the difficulties in this trade must have been extremely limiting. But, there are also other factors that come into play suggesting life in BA Shetland was proving difficult.

With increasing land cultivation the pressure on limited areas of arable soil was unavoidable. This was further exacerbated by expanding heathland, the result of environmental and anthropogenic changes during the second millennium BC (Sharples & Parker Pearson, 1997: 262; Edwards & Whittington 1998: 11-12; Champion 1999: 103). During the BA the climate deteriorated in the Northern Isles, causing cold and damp conditions. Pollen studies show a great reduction of woodland during the BA, leaving Shetland virtually treeless (Edwards & Whittington 1998: 11; Owen & Lowe 1999: 5). The final phase of woodland destruction appears

to have occurred close to 1150 – 950 BC (Tipping 1994: 24). These environmental changes resulted in a blanket peat beginning to form over the hillsides placing cultivatable land under increased pressure (Sharples & Parker Pearson, 1997: 262; Edwards & Whittington 1998: 11-12).

5.4 Bronze Age pottery

This section will review pottery from various LBA sites including domestic structures and burnt mound assemblages to identify pottery trends throughout Shetland during this period. The possible cremation vessel from Greista will be compared to other known examples and will be discussed below.

5.4.1 Cremation vessels

Two cremation urns and another possible cremation vessel were assessed in this study.

At Upper Scalloway a cremation burial was discovered within a barrel-shaped vessel (589, Fig. 42) made from sandy clay with steatite and quartz tempering (type F5). The vessel is undecorated, and has an inverted rim with a flattened edge (type R7) (MacSween 1998: 12). It held the cremated bones of a single adult (Sharples 1998: 11-14).

Three cremation burials were uncovered at Kebister, on the hillock above the settlement site (Owen & Lowe 1999: 253-267). A cremation vessel (Find No. SF3773) was discovered in pit 1, and held the cremated remains of an adult male (*ibid.* 266). This undecorated vessel is tempered with steatite, rock-grits and quartz (F5) and has a plain, rounded rim (R3).

The third vessel, which is possibly a cremation urn, was uncovered in a deep pit at Greista in Tingwall. The vessel (Find No. 386) is highly burnished and has a very unusual lug. Similar to the pots above, this vessel has steatite tempering and rock-grits, but the fabric also includes evidence of grass being added (F6). It has a plain, rounded rim (R3). This vessel may have held cremated remains, which were possibly covered with a leather lid, held fast by the lugged projections (Beverley Ballin Smith, pers. comm.).

All three vessels are made from clay which has steatite added and none are decorated, although the Greista pot is highly burnished (D3). The Greista and Kebister pots display plain, rounded rims while the Upper Scalloway vessel has an inverted rim. Frustratingly none of the cremation vessels discussed has associated scientific dating, which would have offered an insight to this burial practice in Shetland.

5.4.2 Burnt mound vessels

The burnt mound at Ness of Sound generated an assemblage of almost 250 sherds, of which 91% had steatite tempering added to the clay. Four rim types were identified during this study; plain, flattened (Type R2); plain (R1); plain, rounded (R3) and one vessel had a rolled rim (R8). Only one sherd appeared to have been burnished the remaining 248 having no signs of any decoration.

The majority of vessels have soot deposits suggesting they had been set in the fire for cooking, and 116 sherds have food deposits on the interior surface.

5.4.3 Comparanda in Shetland

Cruester

Forty-one vessels were identified at Cruester, most were coil constructed but a few showed signs of being slab-built (MacSween 2014c: 74). Rim types include; plain (type R1), plain flattened (R2), rolled (R8) and T-shaped (R12). Some grinding was noted on a number of rims, suggesting stone lids had been used on some vessels. Most vessels are barrel-shaped, the remaining are bucket shaped (*ibid*).

Only one vessel was decorated with a fine cordon added below the rim (D15) and burnishing was common (*ibid*). The fabric is consistent with Ness of Sound, with high steatitic content, some sherds having 50-80% steatite added to the clay (F4), others have steatite and mixed rock-grits (F5). MacSween suggests the temper may be derived from the crushing and reuse of steatite vessels as there are no steatite quarries on Bressay. Sooting was noted on the outer surface of some vessels suggestive of their use on cooking fires (*ibid*).

Tougs

The vessels from Tougs are predominately barrel-shaped, made from clay which has rock-grits, mica and quartz added (Type F5) (Hedges 1986: 19). Mason has analysed the Tougs assemblage and suggests this fabric is in line with Late Neolithic – EBA material. Mason describes the Early Neolithic fabric as mainly being tempered with grass and rock-grits (very coarse), with an increased emphasis on rock tempered vessels in the Late Neolithic, with some use of steatite. One sherd from phase two (1740) has steatite tempering (Mason pers. comm.).

One cord impressed (D20) beaker (1741) was uncovered; other decoration noted at Tougs included incised diamonds below the rim (1747) of type D7 (Hedges 1986: 15; Fig. 9). Rim types at Tougs include plain (R1), plain, rounded (R3) and 33% display a slightly everted rim (R4).

Tangwick

MacSween estimates a total of 185 vessels were represented at Tangwick (from c.700 sherds), most of which are coil built (1999: 218). They are constructed from micaceous clay, and all have steatite added (F4), (*ibid*). Most outer surfaces are smoothed and 13% are burnished. MacSween notes that 65% of sherds are damaged on all surfaces, a fifth of them are split along the coil junction. One possible cause for this damage may be salt water as the site was encroached by the sea before excavation, but following analysis MacSween rules out salt crystals within the fabric, and proposes the damage is most likely caused by the pots being submersed in the hot water tank for cooking purposes. This hypothesis is reinforced by a lack of soot on the exterior of these vessels (*ibid*).

Like Cruester and Tougs the majority of vessels are barrel shaped, and some are shallower bowls (MacSween 1999: 219). Several of the sherds have holes suggesting the vessels may have had handles attached or lids (*ibid*). Only four decorated vessels were identified at Tangwick; an unusual form of decoration was noted in vessel one (V1), which was highly burnished and had a row of ‘prominent closely-spaced bosses’ below the rim, perhaps emulating the rivets of a metal vessel. Vessel V2 has an applied cordon below the rim, and a vertical cordon running down the body of the pot (D15); Vessel V3 displays horizontal rows of

finger nail impressions of type D9 and vessel V15 has a horizontal row of twisted cord impressions (D20) (*ibid*).

Rim types at Tangwick include plain (type R1), plain, flattened (R2), everted (R4) and slightly inverted (R7).

5.4.4 Discussion

The Ness of Sound assemblage is comparable, having high steatite content, to both Tangwick and Cruester. The earlier material from Tongs does not include steatite tempering. Rim types R1 and R3 are found on all sites and rolled rims (R8) are noted at Ness of Sound and Cruester. Burnished vessels are noted on all sites except Tongs. Ness of Sound does not have any decoration as noted at Tangwick and Cruester (Tables 36-38).

Table 36: Burnt mound rim types

Site	R1	R3	R4	R7	R8	R12
Ness of Sound	X	X			X	
Tangwick	X	X	X	X		
Tongs	X	X	X			
Cruester	X	X			X	X

The radiocarbon dates for Tangwick and Cruester show these sites were still in use around 900-850BC, during the LBA period. Using the data gathered for Ness of Sound during this study, I suggest that Ness of Sound is much later, of MIA date due to use of grass for tempering and the appearance of rolled rims (R8). The earliest use date for grass tempering at Kebister was confirmed with a date of AD70-435 (*cal.* 95.4%, UtC-1152 – Owen & Lowe 1999: 283). This is later than Small's proposal that it is pre-broch IA. Ness of Sound was the first burnt mound in Shetland to be excavated¹⁸ so Small did not have comparative material or structures; his conclusions were reached by the typology of pottery from Jarlshof and Clickhimin (*ibid*). Campbell Anthony's (2003) scientific dating of burnt mounds in Shetland show

¹⁸ Ness of Sound was one of the first 3 burnt mounds to be excavated in Scotland (also Liddle and Bequoy in Orkney) – (Hedges 1974: 81).

they are predominantly Bronze Age structures but the current study of the Ness of Sound assemblage would suggest these structures were still utilised well into the IA.

Table 37: Burnt mound fabric types

Site	F1	F4	F5	F6	F7
Ness of Sound	X	X	X	X	X
Tangwick	X	X	X		
Tougs		X	X		
Cruester		X	X		

Table 38: Burnt mound decoration types

Site	D1	D3	D7	D9	D15	D20
Ness of Sound	X	X				
Tangwick	X	X		X		X
Tougs	X		X			X
Cruester	X	X			X	

5.4.5 Domestic pottery

Pottery assemblages from four domestic structures of LBA date were re-assessed during this study; Kebister structures 1 and 2, Mavis Grind, Catpund and Clickhimin (although it is now doubtful that there was a BA phase at Clickhimin site – see Chapter 6) The pottery fabric from all these sites included some degree of steatite tempering (F3, F4, F5) as noted in Table 39. Various rim types were identified and decoration types included carinated shoulders (D2) and burnishing (D3) and (D4) were noted in two or more sites. Only two types of impressed decoration was noted Kebister including a 'lentoid' decorated sherd (vessel B3) and a ring impressed sherd (E259) – (Figs. 17, 18)

Table 39: Domestic fabric types

Site	F1	F3	F4	F5
Kebister	X	X	X	X
Mavis Grind			X	
Catpund			X	X

5.4.6 Comparanda in Shetland

Two types of impressed decoration were observed in the Kebister assemblage (vessels B3 and E259). The decoration on vessel B3 was not seen on other vessels studied, although similar sherds with fingernail impressions are noted in the Benie Hoos assemblage (Henshall 1961: 41, fig. 7.10) and Sumburgh Airport (Downes & Lamb 2000: 56, Fig. 25). The Sumburgh sherds (160.14 and 246.1) have similar horizontal rows of finger impressed marks while find numbers 160.6, 128.1, 874.1 and 418-818-819 display a more random style of markings across the vessel surface (*ibid*). Recent excavations at Bayanne have revealed two further sherds with similar decoration (Vessels V301 and V898 - see Moore & Wilson 2014: 132, Figs. 3.36; 134, Fig. 3.38). Vessel V898 was retrieved from structure 5, from Phase 2a (event 6) – (see Table 40) and V301, which was carinated, was recovered from a lean-to added to structure 3 during Phase 2B (event 9), confirming both are of BA date (Table 40). Vessels from these phases at Bayanne¹⁹ had varying amounts of steatite tempering, fabrics F4 and F5 being noted and some vessels were burnished (D3) (MacSween 2014a: 123-126).

¹⁹ Bayanne Bronze Age Phases 1, 2A and 2B – see Moore & Wilson 2014:89

Table 40: Dates for Bronze Age structures at Bayanne (Moore & Wilson 2014:89)

Structure	Phase	Lab no.	Radiocarbon date (<i>cal. 2 sigma</i>)
Structure- 5 Final deposit	Phase 2A event 6	OxA-9896	910-790BC
Structure 3 - Primary occupation	Phase 2A event 3	OxA-9902	1500-1260BC
Structure 3 - Refurbishment	Phase 2A event 4	OxA-9901	1400-1120BC
Structure 3 - Post abandonment dumping	Phase 2B event 8a	OxA-9897	1000-820BC
Structure 4 - Late occupation phase	Phase 1 event 2	OxA-9900	1880-1610BC

Dalland and MacSween note that Kebister vessel E259 is of an EIA type although it was discovered in Block 623 in Phase 1.1 (a timber built structure of BA date). A thermoluminescence date (DurTL86-7AS) from this phase returned a date of 2930-1290 BC (Owen & Lowe 1999: 147). It should be noted that the fabric of E259 is untempered, having no steatite inclusions. One sherd with circle impressed decoration (vessel V72) was recovered from structure 3 at Bayanne (see Table 40 for dates). Of possible BA date it is steatite tempered (MacSween 2014a: 125, fig. 3.34). Impressed circle decoration is also seen on vessel V7031 from Clickhimin (Hamilton's Iron Age Farmstead, although it is grass tempered so most likely of Mid - LIA type discussed in Chapter 6) and V740 at Upper Scalloway (block 7.2 which is from the final occupation of the IA broch). Recent excavations at Burland, Trondra added a further example of circle impressed decoration (Vessel V752), from IA layers; this vessel is made from untempered clay (MacSween 2014b: 272, Fig. 4.27). The Kebister sherd E259 may therefore be an anomaly, which has worked its way into a BA layer.



Fig. 56

Vessel V7031 from Clickhimin with ring impressed decoration (type D5) similar to E259 from Kebister. This pot is LIA adding to the possibility that the Kebister sherd is much later.

Steatite tempered carinated vessels are noted at Kebister (B1) and Mavis Grind. Similar vessels are found in other LBA sites including Benie Hoos (see Henshall 1961: Fig. 7), Sumburgh Airport (Downes 2000: 40), Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956: 20-21), Bayanne (Moore & Wilson 2014) and Old Scatness (Brown 2015: 314).



Fig. 57

Carinated vessel (HD 1700) from Benie Hoos, Whalsay.

5.5 Bronze Age at Old Scatness

Excavations at Old Scatness produced a small assemblage of pottery, from the phase below the broch foundations. This included a single sharply carinated sherd, of steatitic fabric (SF7997) from a plough soil deposit [2108]. Other sherds from these phases had steatite inclusions (Brown 2015: 314-316). No BA structures were uncovered at Old Scatness but a layer of anthropogenic amended soils [context 3177] was radiocarbon dated to the late BA/EIA period (*cal.* 810-530BC, GU-9862). These soils had ash midden material added which contained steatitic pottery sherds.

Three OSL²⁰ dates obtained from this layer of soil validate the radiocarbon date; 640BC-AD160 (*cal.* 95%, X457); 700BC-AD100 (*cal.* 95%, X458) and 755BC-AD105 (*cal.* 95%, X459) (Dockrill *et al* 2015: 35). Two conjoining pottery sherds (SF29777 and SF29928) were recovered from below the broch foundation at Old Scatness, and these were decorated with an applied cordon described by Brown as LBA type similar to examples noted at Jarlshof in Village 1 (Hamilton 1956: 30, Fig. 15, vessels 7-11) and Sumburgh Airport (Downes 2000: 49).

5.6 Discussion

Various rim types were identified in all the BA assemblages within this study including plain rims, some inverted or rounded (R3, R4, R7) and rims which have been squared, some to a T-shape (R12). Plain and rounded rims are a feature of pottery from many eras so are not unique to the BA. Squared rims were predominant in the Mavis Grind assemblage (LBA/ EIA) and also noted at Kebister (vessel B1) and vessel E10, which was found in an IA layer, phase 2.4 (block 506). These rim types R12 were noted in the LBA village 2 at Jarlshof, Clickhimin broch interior (CLN 7030) and also at Underhoull 'Broch period' hut (vessel VH22) and within the 'workshop' (vessel V1). As Mavis Grind is thought to be of BA and IA transition, it would be possible to see this rim type trend within EIA contexts.

Radiocarbon dates from excavations at Bayanne can now be accessed to help define pottery trends (see Table 40). Rim types from the BA layers include plain (R1), plain, flattened (R2), slightly everted (R4), inverted with interior bevel (R6), and inverted (R7). Rims described by MacSween as splayed are categorised in this study as being squared and T-shaped of type R12 (2014a: 123-126). Trends that continue into the IA at Bayanne, and new trends noted (such as decorated rims) will be discussed in Chapter 7. Unfortunately few diagnostic rim sherds were retrieved from the BA soil layer at Old Scatness, and they are describes as plain everted (R4) (Brown 2015: 314-315).

²⁰ Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) dating – see Outram & Batt 2015: 186).

Table 41: Domestic rim types

Site	R1	R2	R3	R4	R6	R7	R12
Kebister	X	X				X	X
Mavis Grind				X			X
Catpund			X				
Bayanne	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
OldScatness				X			

The earliest structure (4) at Bayanne produced a calibrated radiocarbon date from its final layer of occupation of 1880-1610BC (*cal.* 95%, OxA 9900), (Moore & Wilson 2014: 93). Four vessels were recovered from this domestic structure (V13, V16, V18, V19); all were constructed from fabric type F5 (steatite and rock-grits) (*ibid*). The most common trend in the LBA material discussed in this study is the use of steatite tempering. Scientific dates from Old Scatness and Bayanne confirm its use throughout this period.

Reflecting on what has been discussed above the unpublished Greista assemblage is most likely to be of MIA date due to the presence of grass tempering (this will be discussed at length in Chapter 6). The Greista vessels are predominately tempered with steatite, rock-grits and grass. Rim types include plain, flattened (R2) and plain rounded (R3). All pots are undecorated although 35% of them are burnished. The reasons why the highly burnished pot, previously thought to be a cremation vessel, was found within a pit will be further explored in the following chapter.

Doubt has also been cast on the BA dates for Ness of Sound and Cruester burnt mounds. Rolled rims are noted in both assemblages and these are thought to be a later development in rim morphology from the MIA period. Similar rims were noted by Towers in the Skaili assemblage where he suggests they ‘represent the higher degree of the potter’s skills....and could also be the perfect vehicle to display the skills of an accomplished potter’ (2010: 110). Burnishing was also evident in these assemblages. If, as suggested, rolling is a later technique in rim construction, were these burnt mounds still in use during the MIA or were they reoccupied in some way during this period? Further discourse on MIA assemblages will be discussed in Chapter 6.

Squared rims of the type R12 are shown to be prevalent in the BA domestic setting (see Table 41). This morphology, plus burnishing and the widespread use of steatite inclusions are shown to continue through the EIA in Shetland and this will be considered further in the following chapter.

Chapter 6

We have seen, in the previous chapter, that obvious trends can be identified in the ceramic record during the BA period in Shetland. Many of the LBA attributes of pottery continue over a lengthy period and this continuation of form and design into the IA will be explored below. It is during the IA, especially throughout the broch period that we can identify a rise in the consumption of highly decorated vessels, especially bold decoration of vessel rims. Pottery manufacture also changes during the LIA as pots become finer, with potters using different or no inclusions, perhaps a sign that potters were becoming more adept at constructing and firing their vessels. Changing trends in the IA were identified during this study, and will be discussed in the following chapter.

6.1 Iron Age Shetland

During the period 800BC - 600BC iron was introduced into Britain (Cunliffe 2005: 88). Shetland's Iron Age came slightly later; Bronze Age metal working is seen, as noted above at Jarlshof around 700BC, during the period when the south of Britain was beginning to consume iron. Sharples, who excavated the broch site at Upper Scalloway defines Shetland's Iron Age (1998: 133):

- Early Iron Age – 500-200BC
- Middle Iron Age – 200BC-AD400
- Late Iron Age/Pictish – AD400-800

Recent dating from Old Scatness has led Iron Age specialist Noel Fojut to review the accepted Shetland definitions of the period (Fojut, pers. comm.):

- Early Iron Age – c.700-300BC
- Middle Iron Age – 300BC - AD400
- Late Iron Age/ Pictish – AD400-800

It appears that is it not so much the consumption of iron that symbolises Shetland's Iron Age but the building of brochs; their appearance in the isles defining the Middle Iron Age to 400BC-AD400 (Turner & Moncrieff 2015: xlv). New dating evidence from

excavations at Old Scatness, has pushed the MIA back 200 years, earlier than Sharples' classifications during the late 1990s (1998: 133). For this study 500BC-AD400, will be the accepted dates used to define the MIA period (which covers Turner & Moncrieff (2015), Sharples (1998) and Owen & Lowe's (1999) interpretations.

There are over 120 possible broch sites in Shetland (Turner 1998: 71). Brochs discussed in this study include Clickhimin, Underhoull, Upper Scalloway, Sae Breck in Eshaness, Northmavine and East Shore at Virkie, Dunrossness.

Evidence from Old Scatness, has pushed back the first building of broch towers to before the threat of Roman invasion in the closing decades before Christ, previously considered to be the main stimulus for defensive building by the indigenous population (Dockrill *et al* 2005:57). Animal bone uncovered from between foundation stones has provided a radiocarbon date of 390-200BC (*cal.* 95%, GU-11534) for the broch's construction (Dockrill *et al* 2015: 18). This is further validated by two radiocarbon samples of cereal grains from secondary middens abutting the broch wall, offering dates of 400-200BC (*cal.* 95%, GU-9861) and 380-110BC (GU-9865) (*ibid.* 44-45).

The broch (structure 9) is the earliest structure excavated at Old Scatness. Evidence of iron smelting slag was found in an earlier pit that was sealed below the foundations of the broch. A radiocarbon date was obtained from this context, 810-410BC (GU-12036) (McDonnell, Milns *et al* 2015: 396).

During the EIA period another structure enters the archaeological record.

Souterrains are underground constructions that begin to appear in locations around the North Atlantic seaboard from around 500BC (Miket 2002: 78, 81). They are often attached to roundhouses, their entrances leading from within the chambers of the house (Ashmore 2002: 7). Their function is not proven but various hypotheses have been suggested including storage, a place of refuge in times of threat and the possibility that these underground passages hold a place of religious significance (Miket 2002: 82).

Three souterrains were uncovered at Jarlshof, two leading out from within the bronze smith's house and the other attached to an EIA roundhouse (Turner 1998: 58). One

leading from the bronze smith's house curved under the hearth (*ibid*). A souterrain was excavated by Small at Underhoull in Unst and this was attached to a roundhouse described by Small as an EIA 'hut' (1964: 227). Pottery was retrieved from within and around this structure and these sherds will be discussed below.

Turner suggests souterrains were built by Shetlanders during the LBA and this would be in keeping with other areas in Scotland that were already in their IA phase, around 700-600BC (1998: 57). No souterrains, excavated in Shetland, have been scientifically dated so we must look outside the islands to determine the period of their construction and use. Excavations in the Hebrides offer two clues; radiocarbon dates from Tungadale, Skye show souterrains coming into use around 200-100BC and in Alt na Cille, also in Skye, the souterrain being constructed c. 150BC (Miket 2002: 92). Pottery was recovered from Tungadale and Carn nam Bodach in Skye and these assemblages are very similar to IA material from Shetland, including shouldered vessels with applied cordons and finger impressions (Miket 2002: 99-107). In Orkney souterrains appear to have become popular from 600BC and continued to be constructed until the early years of the opening century AD (Ritchie 1995: 114).

Increasing social change and complexity is noted in Shetland's archaeological record around the same time iron technology was introduced. As iron-ore was more readily available from sources within the region such as bog-iron (impure iron deposits found naturally in Shetland peat bogs), less contact with the outer world was necessary for trade. Society within Shetland appears to have become more insular and hierarchical²¹ during this period and this may have been motivated by the relative availability of iron weaponry. Perhaps communities were not only aware of potential threat from the outside world, but their neighbours may have also become a threat, especially if arable land was becoming scarcer as discussed in Chapter 5.

6.2 Iron Age pottery 500BC-AD400

When discussing EIA pottery it is difficult to distinguish it from LBA material. Change within society takes time, new ideas may be adopted at different times by different people; some may hold on to what is current while other will embrace change with

²¹ See discussions in Sharples 1998: 204-211 and Dockrill *et al* 2015: 493-499

enthusiasm. As noted above in Chapter 5, Bronze Age Shetlanders adopted change but with their own regional influences as observed with 'Beaker' style pottery (Sheridan 2012; 2013).

While discussing Mavis Grind and Catpund, it is difficult, using pottery typology alone to ascertain definitive dates for these excavated sites and so they were classed as LBA/EIA date (Cracknell & Smith 1979, 1983; Ballin Smith 2005). Pottery classed as EIA was identified at Kebister associated with the primary floor of structure 3, and primary and secondary occupation horizons within structure 4. Carbonised barley grains from two hearth layers within structure 4 provide calibrated (95.7%) dates of 395BC-AD0 (UtC-1147) and 470BC-AD5 (UtC-1146), confirming the house was still in use during the MIA (Owen & Lowe 1999: 270). Dalland and MacSween comment on the occurrence of EIA ware in these stratified MIA contexts, suggesting this 'could have wide-ranging implications' for the dating of sites that have been dated by pottery typology alone (1999: 282-283).

A new trend appears in the Kebister assemblage from within these structures with necked and shouldered vessels emerging (vessels C140, C141, C142, C50 and C76, Dalland & MacSween 1999: 180-182 Fig. 157). Vessels of similar shape are noted at Jarlshof in village 2 (dwellings 4B, 4C& 5), which Hamilton dated to the LBA (1956: 38); Benie Hoos in Whalsay (see Henshall 1961: Fig. 7, no. 26); Bayanne (vessel V131 – MacSween 2014a: 131, Fig. 3.35) and Clickhimin (Hamilton 1968: 42, Fig. 19, 1-5). Pots of this style found at Sumburgh Airport (vessels 109, 2/32/34) are classified as Jar type 1.2 (Downes 2000: 41, Fig. 15). Shouldered vessel 1113 from Mavis Grind is of similar shape confirming its place in EIA type ware.



Fig. 58

The profile of 'necked and shouldered' vessels from Clickhimin.
Left: CLN 7034 Right: CLN 7031

Steatite tempering continues at Kebister, with some untempered vessels (C173, 55, E184 & E276) emerging in the later phases (2.2). Rim types from these phases include plain, everted (some faceted), inverted and rolled - see Table 42. Rolled rims (type R8) appear regularly during this period throughout the islands. Similar rims are noted at Clickhimin (vessels CLN 7619, 7618, 7625 and 765) (Hamilton 1968: Fig. 19, vessel 2A), in midden scatters within IA layers at Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956: Fig. 36, 13-16), Ness of Sound (vessel N15); Upper Scalloway (vessels V1114 and V863) and Burland (see vessel 175 - MacSween 2014b: 273, Fig. 4.25).

Fig. 59

Rolled rims type R8: Right, vessel V863 from Upper Scalloway and below, CLN 7622 from Clickhimin.



Table 42: Kebister – Pottery from Early – Middle Iron Age phases

Vessel numbers	Iron Age Phase	Block	Fabric	Decoration	Rim
C140	2.1	Structures 3&4	F5	D8	R1
C141	2.1	Structures 3&4	F4	D2	R4
C76	2.1	Structures 3&4	F4	D4	R4
E184	2.2	Cultivated horizons	F1	D6	
E276	2.2	Cultivated horizons	F1	D6	
E261	2.2	Cultivated horizons	F5	D1	R5
C173	2.2	Cultivated horizons	F1	D3	R4
E55	2.2	Cultivated horizons	F1	D1	R7
C146	2.4	Dereliction of structured 3&4	F4	D1	R8



Fig. 60

Decorated (type D8) and burnished vessel C140 from earlier Iron Age layers at Kebister.

Decoration from this period at Kebister includes a burnished vessel with incised horizontal lines with vertical lines between (Type D8 – Fig. 60). Similar decoration, of incised lines between two parallel lines is noted on other vessels relating to EIA-MIA, but these have diagonal lines rather than vertical. These include vessel CLN 7034 from Clickhimin and burnished vessels V535 and V538 from Upper Scalloway (see Appendix 8). Small sherds displaying a similar type of incised decoration were recovered at Sumburgh Airport (sherds 856.3, 406.9 and 887 - see Downes & Lamb 2000: 57, Fig. 26) and from a recent excavation at Law Ting Holm, Tingwall; where sherd number SF245 has two incised parallel lines with chevrons between. This sherd is made with sandy untempered clay (Brown 2014: 68, Fig. 100). The pottery assemblage from Law Ting Holm is predominately steatite and quartz tempered of MIA type (*ibid*). It should be noted though that similar decoration also appears in later ‘Wheelhouse’ assemblages (see below).

The IA pottery from Underhoull was classed by Small as coming from two phases; the EIA material coming from the primary occupation of the ‘hut’ which was attached to a souterrain, and ‘Broch period’ ware from a later hut and workshop (1964: 227). As Table 43 highlights, the group of phase 1 pottery is constructed from untempered clay, steatite and rock tempered clay and a rare example of fabric in Shetland where grog (broken pots) has been added to the clay (type F8). The use of grog as a tempering material was not identified at any of the other sites reviewed in this study but one single sherd within the stray finds collection (ARC 2002.291), has grog added (Fig. 61). This was found at an IA site at Sandwick, also in Unst.



Fig. 61

Stray find, ARC 2002.291 showing grog (orange fragments) added to the fabric of the vessel.

From Sandwich, Unst

Table 43: Underhoull– Pottery described by Small as Early Iron Age

Vessel numbers	Iron Age Phase	Block	Fabric	Decoration	Rim
652	Pre-broch	Midden against souterrain door	F7	D1	R4
KE2	Pre-broch	Scatter in souterrain	F6	D1	R7
K5C	Pre-broch	Scatter in souterrain	F1	D1	R3
NS3	Pre-broch	Scatter beyond souterrain	F8	D1	R1
NS2	Pre-broch	Scatter in souterrain	F1	D7	
N52	Pre-broch	Scatter on top of souterrain	F5	D6	R1
K5R1	Pre-broch	Scatter in souterrain	F4	D1	R1

The majority of Underhoull sherds are undecorated apart from two examples; one displaying two parallel incised-lines (D7) and two sherds with incised curvilinear

decoration of type D6 (Fig. 62). Rim types include plain, everted, plain rounded and inverted.



Fig. 62

The only decorated body sherds (NS2 and N52) from Underhoull, Unst

6.2.1 Middle Iron Age Pottery – Hamilton’s ‘Broch type’

The Middle Iron Age is defined at Old Scatness as being from 400BC-AD400 during the time of broch construction and occupation (Turner & Moncrieff 2015: xlv). As noted at Mavis Grind, Kebister and Bayanne, not all long-established communities in the Northern Isles built brochs (Owen and Lowe, 1999:287, Cracknell & Smith 1983, 1985, Moore & Wilson 2014). At Underhoull the buildings excavated by Small were constructed at the foot of a hill where the broch takes prominence. Using pottery typology as a guide, Small concluded that one of the ‘huts’ and a workshop were contemporary with the broch above, comparing the ‘Broch-type’ ware to that described by Hamilton at Jarlshof and Clickhimin (1964: 229-230). The pottery from within the broch at Upper Scalloway and Clickhimin were reviewed during this study and these assemblages will be compared to material from both the broch and surrounding broch settlement at Old Scatness. This material, which has associated scientific dating, can offer us a more defined time period for the Shetland pottery traditionally accepted as MIA or ‘Broch type’ ware.

The MIA pottery from Kebister, as highlighted in Table 44, show continued use of steatite to temper the fabric, but the increase in finer vessels constructed from untempered clays becomes apparent. This is a defining feature as pottery made in the earlier period was heavily tempered. We can also identify the use of grass as a tempering agent being introduced (a key change noted in IA fabric) on its own (F7) or mixed with steatite and rock-grits (F6). Vessels of these fabrics are especially concentrated in and around cellular structure 5 which is dated to the latter phase of

the MIA (Table 44). The earliest use of grass tempering at Kebister was found in one of the cells of structure 5 which was radiocarbon dated to AD70-435 (*cal.* 95.4%, UtC-1152 – Owen & Lowe 1999: 283). Grass tempering is also noted in the Underhoull assemblage (in both phases 1 and 2), Upper Scalloway (from the primary and secondary occupation of the broch, see Tables 45 and 48), Clickhimin (from the broch interior), and Ness of Sound. The pottery from Greista was predominately tempered with grass mixed with steatite and rock-grits, including the lugged pot thought to be a cremation vessel, suggesting a MIA date.

MacSween noted that the fabric used in the MIA pottery (from phases 4, 5 & 6) at Bayanne is increasingly untempered, constructed from sandy clay. She also notes that burnishing and highly polished vessels are more common (MacSween 2014a: 124).

Carinated and burnished vessels continue in use during this period and incised decoration, in curvilinear form is noted (type D6). Rim types at Kebister during the MIA appear to be predominantly inverted (R7) but everted (R4), rolled (R8) and squared (R12) types are still represented (Table 41)

Table 44: Vessels from Kebister Middle Iron Age phases

Vessel numbers	Iron Age Phase	Block	Fabric	Decoration	Rim
D6	2.1 Middle Iron Age	Structures 3 & 4	F4	D1	R7
A3	2.3 Early 1 st Cent AD	Cellular structure 5	F7	D1	R7
E180	2.4	Abandonment of buildings 3,4 & 5	F1	D6	
A2	2.4	Abandonment of buildings 3,4 & 5	F7	D1	R7
C134	2.4	Abandonment of buildings 3,4 & 5	F5	D2	
C146	2.4	Abandonment of buildings 3,4 & 5	F4	D1	R8
E10	2.4	Abandonment of buildings 3,4 & 5	F1	D3	R12
E66	2.4	Abandonment of buildings 3,4 & 5	F1	D1	R7
E68	3.2	Field soils and pits	F1	D1	R7
E131	3.3	Redeposited midden	F1	D7	R4

The pottery came from structures 3 and 4; these are domestic buildings forming part of the MIA settlement at Kebister. Radiocarbon dates were obtained from hearths in both these structures. Structure 4 revealed well stratified occupation layers.

Carbonised barley grains from hearths provided dates of 395BC-AD0 (*cal.* 95.7%, UtC-1147) and 470BC-AD5 (*cal.* 95.5%, UtC-1146). A secondary floor deposit, which contained the largest collection of pottery including the shouldered vessels (C140, C142 and C50), provided a calibrated radiocarbon date of 295 BC–AD230 (SCR: UtC-1145), confirming Kebister's continued settlement during the MIA or 'Broch period' (Owen & Lowe 1999: 271, 283).

Structure 3, a D-shaped dwelling, also offered a clear and well-stratified sequence of occupation layers including hearth and floor surfaces. Hearths three and four in the sequence provided dates of AD0-330 (*cal.* 95.5%, UtC 1148) and 90-500AD (*cal.*

95.5%, GU-2613) respectively (*ibid*: 272-273). When structure 3 was built is less clear. Hearth material on ground surfaces below structure 4 was dated to 395BC-AD0 (*cal.* 95.7%, UtC-1147) leading the archaeologists to suggest this may also date the construction of structure 3 due to their stratigraphic location (*ibid*). During the last occupation of structure 3, 'Broch type' pottery and decorated 'Wheelhouse type' ware appear in the final deposits. A calibrated radiocarbon sample provided a date, 90-500AD (*cal.* 95.5%, GU-2613), for this closing event leading the excavators to conclude the house was probably in use for 340 to 640 years (*ibid*: 272).

Structure 5 was built at the turn of the millennium, when broch building was beginning to wane. Dating of this structure confirms it was constructed around 30BC-AD100 and continued in use until around AD400, offering us an insight into the pottery trends of the latter MIA, including highly burnished vessels and grass tempering (Owen & Lowe 1999: 143, 283).

Excavation of the broch at Upper Scalloway provides us with another opportunity to interpret a pottery assemblage from the MIA period. Campbell *et al* suggest the broch was occupied from the first century BC although the only scientific date obtained from the primary broch deposits (block 7.5) offered a date of AD258-550 (*cal.* 95%, AA 13805), (1998:186). Efficient and thorough cleaning of the broch floors during its primary occupation is suggested for the lack of earlier dates (*ibid*). Pottery was collected from these initial occupation layers (phase 2) and these are listed in Table 45. Steatite inclusions continue as a tempering agent but other fabrics from this phase include a mixture of rock-grits including quartz (F5), and grass makes an appearance here too, used with mixed rock-grits (F6) but also on its own (F7).

Table 45: Vessels from Upper Scalloway Middle Iron Age Phase 2

Vessel numbers	Middle Iron Age Phase 2	Context (Block)	Fabric	Decoration	Rim
V1112	Broch wall	7.6	F5	D7	R1
V1025	Broch wall	7.6	F5	D1	R7
V1088	Broch wall	7.6	F5	D1	R7
V1104	Broch wall	7.6	F1	D3	R4
V1494	Primary occ.	7.5	F5	D1	R7
V1258	Primary occ.	7.5	F6	D11	R14
V1343	Primary occ.	7.5	F7	D11	R14
V1299	Primary occ.	7.5	F7	D1	R4
V2085	The hollow	6.7	F5	D17	R7
V471	The hollow	6.7	F5	D1	
V2074	The hollow	6.7	F6	D1	R6
V2026	The hollow	6.7	F6	D3	R4

The Upper Scalloway pots, reassessed during this study, show a range of decoration including vessel V2085 which has dragged lines, probably made with the potter's fingers, down the whole body of the pot (Type D17); it is unique to this study (Fig. 40). The underside of the base of this vessel is also decorated with an incised-cross.

Decorated bases are known during the IA in Shetland, but these are predominately with concentric rings as noted at Clickhimin (CLN 7939 and CLN 7941 – see Fig. 26), Kebister (vessel E129) and Bayanne (vessels V377 and V377, MacSween 2014a: 128). There is also incised lattice patterned base in the Clickhimin assemblage (CLN 7941 – see Appendix 8). The Upper Scalloway cross-incised base is rare and so we must go outside Shetland to see comparisons. A similar base on vessel 2635 was recovered from a MIA context at Howe on Orkney (Ballin-Smith 1994: 250, Fig. 150). This proved to be the only example on site and is decorated on the inside surface of the base, unlike the Upper Scalloway vessel. Two further examples of bases with cross incisions (again on the inside) are noted in the Western Isles; a shouldered vessel (180) which held the cremated remains of a cow and found within a ritual pit (NE7) at a MIA wheelhouse at Sollas, Uist; and another, described as an 'exact parallel' to Sollas from A'Cheardach Mhor (Campbell 1991: 154).



Fig. 63

Cross incised base from vessel (V2085), Upper Scalloway.

Decoration of two incised parallel-lines with triangular patterns between, sometimes referred to as 'herringbone' is noted on vessel V1112 (type D7). While some vessels continue to be burnished or undecorated, new forms of decorated rims emerge during this period. These elaborate rims (R14) are everted with a large cordon or band applied just below the rim which is pinched with the potter's fingers moulding the clay into what is sometimes referred to as 'pie-crust' decoration (Figs. 12, 64). Rims of this type are seen at Clickhimin in vessels CLN 7661, CLN 7664, CLN 7666; Upper Scalloway (vessels V1343 and V1258) and Underhoull (vessels UH 30 and UH160) from the 'Broch period' hut and workshop. 'Pie-crust' rims are also noted within the broch at Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956: 46-47 Fig. 25 and 26), Bayanne (vessels V341, V603 – MacSween 2014a: Figs. 3.37 and 3.39), Kebister (vessels F4 & F6) and from structure 17 at Old Scatness (see SF13972, Brown 2015: 326, Fig. 7.2.15).



Fig. 64

'Pie-crust' rims of type R14 found within primary broch deposits.

Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7661) and Right: Upper Scalloway (V1258)

Table 46: Vessels from Upper Scalloway, External Middle Iron Age settlement

Vessel numbers	Early Phase 3	Block	Fabric	Decoration	Rim
V1977	House 1	6.6	F6	D1	N/A
V2221	House 1	6.6	F4	D1	N/A
V1555	House 1	6.6	F5	D1	N/A
V1989	House 1	6.6	F1	D7	N/A
V1977	House 1	6.6	F6	D1	N/A
V233a	House 5&6	2.1	F5	D1	N/A
V2271	House 5&6	2.3	F6	D1	R10

Other rim types from the broch at Upper Scalloway include inverted and everted, some with multiple internal bevels (R6) – (Figs. 65, 77). Rims of this style begin to be observed in ‘Broch type’ assemblages including Clickhimin broch (see Appendix 7), Kebister (vessel E263 – see Dalland & MacSween 1999: 184. Illus. 161), Bayanne (vessel V334 – see MacSween 2014a: 133, fig. 3.37), East Shore broch, Dunrossness (vessels V6 7 V20 – see MacSween 1995: 459) and the broch at Sae Breck, Eshaness (vessels GA 1204 & GA 1206 - Calder 1951: 183). A vessel with a multiple bevelled rim (V 2074) was uncovered outside the broch wall at Upper Scalloway in a MIA context, ‘the hollow’ (block 6.7), in which are dated to AD115-445 (GU 2924) – see Table 15.

The internal bevels (sometimes referred to as fluting²²) inside the rim are probably produced by the potter’s fingers to create a ‘corrugated’ effect (Figs. 65, 77). It has been suggested that this may be a functional thing rather than purely for decoration; the ridges inside the rim would offer an edge to rest a lid on (Armit 2006: 124). Stone ‘pot-lids’ are often found on excavation, but wooden ones may well have been used; they are unlikely to survive in the archaeological record unless they were in anaerobic conditions, and also due to their value as firewood when discarded. Vessels with bevelled rims (type R6) are often highly polished and the examples reviewed in this study show they were used for cooking purposes, with evidence of soot and food residues noted on the sherds (see Appendix 7).

²² ‘Flutings’ and ‘fluted’ are often terms used in older texts, for example see Calder 1951: 183.



Fig. 65

Left: internally bevelled rim from Upper Scalloway (V2074).

Right, Decorated base, vessel CLN 7942, Clickhimin.

A further decorated rim type is noted at Clickhimin; vessels CLN 7678, CLN 7999, CLN 7677 and CLN 7681, all have a flattened square rim which has incised diagonal lines along the flat edge (type R5) – (Fig. 66). Similar decorated rims are noted at Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956: 66, Fig. 35), Bayanne (MacSween 2014a: 133, Fig. 3.37) and the Iron Age smeltery at Wiltrow (Curle 1936: 168, Fig. 15). Outside Shetland these flat decorated rims also feature in the Western Isles; a similar rimmed vessel (No. 46) was uncovered from an EIA to MIA building at Eilean Olabhat in North Uist. AMS²³ radiocarbon dating of this dwelling spans the 4th to the 1st centuries BC (Armit *et al* 2008: 71 Illus. 25, no 46). This vessel was grass tempered (*ibid*).

²³ Accelerator Mass Spectrometry (AMS) offers high precision Carbon 14 dates, which can be achieved from very small samples.



Fig. 66

Flattened square rims with incised decoration from Clickhimin (CLN 7678, CLN 7676. Bottom right: Accentuated rolled rim from Upper Scalloway - vessel V237. It is made from grass tempered clay.



Prominently rolled rims appear during the MIA to LIA. Vessel V237 from Upper Scalloway has an accentuated rolled rim (Fig. 66). Similar type rims are noted at Old Scatness (SF30748 – Brown 2010: 211, Fig. 6.2.5) and Clickhimin (CLN7673). The Clickhimin example was also tempered with grass, placing it in the late MIA.

Returning to the pottery from Underhoull, it is evident by comparing the assemblage with other MIA sites that it is contemporary with the 'Broch type' ware. As noted above the fabrics include steatite tempering, sometimes mixed with rock-grits, grass (a key ingredient in the MIA) and grog. Decoration is also similar to other broch assemblages, with incised parallel-lines, some with diamond patterns between, and burnishing (Type D8). The rim forms are very typical of the MIA, including the 'pie-crust' decoration noted above, but there are also vessels displaying an applied cordon below the rim which is deeply slashed with a knife-like tool in diagonal lines also typical of the period (type R15, D12). This bold decoration is also noted at Jarlshof, within the broch (Hamilton 1956: 47, Fig. 26), Clickhimin broch (CLN 7668, see Appendix 8), and structure 11 at Old Scatness (vessels SF5919 & FS32673; Brown 2010: 208-218) but not at Bayanne or Kebister.



Fig. 67

Rim sherd from Underhoull (vessel UH33) with a deeply slashed cordon applied under the rim (type R15, D12).

6.3 Middle Iron Age at Old Scatness

Recent excavations at the Middle Iron Age settlement at Old Scatness offer a range of scientific dates to help evaluate definitive pottery trends noted at other sites which were excavated before radiocarbon dating was available. The broch (structure 9) was built around 390-200BC. The broch assemblage at Old Scatness is characterised by the use of steatite tempering but quartz-grits²⁴ are also included (Brown 2015: 315). One sherd (SF30060) has identical decoration to sherd SF245 from Law Ting Holm, Tingwall (Brown 2014: 68, Fig. 100), exhibiting two parallel-lines with chevrons between them (Brown 2015: 316, Fig. 7.2.4). Shouldered vessels are noted (see SF29150, Brown 2015: 316, Fig. 7.2.5) and rim types include plain everted (some sharply – R4) and inverted (R7), (*ibid*). Interestingly there is no mention of bevelled or pie-crust type rims from broch's initial occupation at Old Scatness but they do begin to appear in later structures in phase 5 and 6 discussed below.

Following the construction of the broch at Old Scatness a large surrounding settlement was built, including two aisled-roundhouses (structures 12 and 14). A third building (structure 8) that was sub-rectangular was also constructed around this period (Dockrill & Bond 2015a: 19).

²⁴ Quartz-grits are noted in steatitic fabrics of Bronze Age date (usually mixed with other rock-grits) but the Iron Age fabrics described at Old Scatness has a higher volume of quartz on its own being added with steatite.

The earliest horizon of occupation within structure 12 provided an archaeomagnetic (AM) date from fired-clay within the primary hearth [4625]. This produced a date of 90BC-AD85 (AM60) in the very centre of the MIA, and is further validated by a sample (AM46) from another hearth [3763] of 95BC-AD90 (Dockrill & Bond 2015b: 74). Structure 14 is described as an egg-shaped roundhouse and it appears to have been constructed around the same period; again clay from the primary hearth [4700] providing an AM date of 70-35BC (*cal.* 95%, AM61). A secondary hearth [4653] provided an archaeomagnetic date of 100BC-AD135 (*cal.* 95%, AM58) and this is substantiated by a radiocarbon date 180BC-AD20 (*cal.* 95%, GU-12031) (*ibid.*: 92). Structure 8 was built onto structure 12 and it contained many pottery sherds in an area next to a stone built 'oven'. The primary-hearth [2967] within this building is dated to 70-30BC (*cal.* 95%, AM29, *ibid.*: 83). For further dates relating to these structures see Table 47.

Table 47: Phase 5 - Middle Iron Age dates from Old Scatness

Structure & phase	Context	Source	Calibrated date (<i>cal. 2 sigma</i>)	Lab number
9, broch construction	5291	Radiocarbon	390-200BC	GU-11534
9, broch, secondary middens	3182	Radiocarbon	400-200BC	GU-9861
9, broch, secondary middens	3186	Radiocarbon	380-110BC	GU-9865
9, broch occupation	5175	Radiocarbon	40BC-AD140	GU-12034
12, primary hearth	4625	Archaeomagnetic	90BC-AD85	AM60
12, hearth secondary occ>.	3763	Archaeomagnetic	95BC-AD90	AM46
12, secondary occ.	4703	Radiocarbon	740-390BC	GU-12032
14, primary hearth	4700	Archaeomagnetic	70-35BC	AM61
14, primary hearth	4653	Archaeomagnetic	100BC-AD135	AM58
14, secondary occ	4649	Radiocarbon	180BC-AD20	GU-12031
14, secondary occ	2884	Radiocarbon	210CC-AD30	GU-9550
8, primary hearth	2967	Archaeomagnetic	70-30BC	AM29
8, secondary occ	1818	Radiocarbon	350-1BC	GU-8873
8, secondary hearth	2631	Radiocarbon	110BC-AD130	GU-9554
8, secondary hearth	1989	Radiocarbon	170BC-AD70	GU-9585

The pottery assemblage from within these three structures (described as phase 5), show the continued use of steatite tempering, especially the collection within structure 8. Quartz inclusions, sometimes mixed with steatite become more apparent during this phase, especially within structure 14. Shouldered vessels are numerous and burnished vessels continue to be present as do pots with incised-decoration; again two parallel-lines with diagonal-lines between is noted (SF37672) and rows of horizontal lines (SF29103) of types D7 and D8 (see Brown 2015: 319, Fig. 7.2.5).

Rim types continue to include rounded (R3), everted (R4), squared (R12) and beaded (R13), (Brown 2015:317).

In the latter half of the MIA (AD0-400) at Old Scatness the settlement was extended (Phase 6 - structures 21, 23 and 17) and the secondary use of the broch is highlighted with the addition of structure 16 built inside (Dockrill 2015b: 120-122). Structures 21 and 23 have parallels with the aisled-roundhouses at Jarlshof that Hamilton was convinced had been built by an incoming population (1956: 60-61). They include a dividing wall across the centre of the structure halving the house interior (Dockrill 2015b: 119). Finds, including Roman glass, from these dwellings suggest the occupants were of significant status with contact and perhaps trading with the Roman Empire and Baltic regions²⁵ (*ibid*: 120).

Structure 21 is believed to have been built around AD60-120; primary occupation of the north half [6298] is dated to 50BC-AD140 (GU-14932) from a charred barley grain recovered from floor deposits in cell 8. Within cell 7 another barley sample was retrieved from ash layers and dated to AD50-230 (GU-12025) – (Dockrill 2015b: 134). Primary floor contexts [6259, 6293] within the south half of the dwelling produced calibrated (95%) radiocarbon dates of AD70-250 (GU-14929) and AD120-350 (GU-14931) (*ibid*). Structure 21 continued in use until it was filled with rubble and part of it was reconstructed to make a corn drying kiln which contained large amounts of carbonised barley and ash. A sample from the final firing of the kiln provided a date of AD250-440 (*cal.* 95%, GU-20488) and this was validated by an archaeomagnetic date of AD120-410 (*cal.* 95%, AM34). The final rubble layer, which was infilled following the kiln's last firing, was dated to between AD340-610 (*cal.* 95%, AA52323, AA52324), (Dockrill 2015b: 141).

Structures 23 and 17 were joined and connected by a doorway. The earliest use for structure 23 is confirmed by a radiocarbon date of AD20-240 (*cal.* 95%, GU-9544) and structure 17, 50BC-AD330 (*cal.* 95%, GU-9869) – (Dockrill 2015b: 203). The pierced roundhouse built within the broch (structure 16) appears to have been constructed around 40BC-AD140, confirmed by two identical radiocarbon dates (GU-12033 and GU-12034), (Dockrill 2015b: 153). Further dates for Phase 6 at Old Scatness can be seen in Table 48.

²⁵ This is the period Noel Fojut describes above as Mid-Middle Iron Age.

Table 48: Phase 6 – Late Middle Iron Age dates from Old Scatness

Structure	Context	Source	Calibrated date	Lab number
21, primary occupation	6259	Radiocarbon	AD70-250	GU-14929
21, primary/secondary	3428	Radiocarbon	AD80-250	GU-12024
21, secondary	6293	Radiocarbon	AD120-350	GU-14931
21, secondary	6099	Radiocarbon	AD80-250	GU-18745
21, secondary	6298	Radiocarbon	50BC-AD140	GU-14932
21, secondary	3491	Radiocarbon	50BC-AD230	GU-12025
21, Reused as a kiln	3298	Radiocarbon	AD10-240	GU-11100
21, Reused as a kiln	3083	Radiocarbon	AD340-550	AA-52323
21, Reused as a kiln	3083	Radiocarbon	AD380-610	AA-52324
21, Reused as a kiln	3291	Archaeomagnetic	100BC-AD240	AM43
16	5175	Radiocarbon	40BC-AD140	GU-12033 GU-12034
23, secondary	2891	Radiocarbon	AD20-240	GU-9544
17, secondary	3153	Radiocarbon	50BC-AD330	GU-9869

The pottery assemblage from Phase 6 at Old Scatness highlights changes in the fabric being used by the potters; steatite inclusions continues to be observed within the early Late MIA, again some with quartz inclusions added, but the addition of steatite to the clay begins to wane during the latter decades of the period. Untempered clay and quartz-only tempering now takes precedence (Brown 2015: 339). Quartz tempering is also noted in the LIA pottery recently uncovered at Law Ting Holm (Brown 2014: 66). Changes in rim types are also noted during this time with everted internal bevelled rims (R6) becoming more common. These are noted within structures 21 and 23 (for example SF32172, SF19919 and SF39808 – see Brown 2015: 325). Squared and inverted rims are still represented and there is a marked decline noted in rolled rims, very few are observed in Phase 6 contexts (*ibid*: 335). Pie-crust rims of type R14 are recorded in structures 23 and 17; one vessel displaying this type of rim is also highly burnished (SF13972), (*ibid*: 325).

Various sherds with incised decoration are observed including a burnished sherd from structure 16 (SF11261) which is identical to highly burnished sherds from 'inside the ringwall' at Clickhimin, (CLN 79142a) and sherd UH28 from the workshop at Underhoull. The decoration on these vessels may have been achieved using the teeth of a comb (Fig. 68).



Fig. 68

Possible comb incised decoration on sherds from Clickhimin and Underhoull, CLN 79142a and UH28.

These sherds are identical to one from Old Scatness structure 16, dated to the first centuries AD.

Using the datable material from Old Scatness we can now begin to pinpoint trends to particular time periods. Steatite tempering was being used until well though Period 6 (c. AD 200-400) much later than the early broch construction phase. The boldly decorated rims such as pie-crust and applied slashed cordons, as observed in the Clickhimin, Upper Scalloway and Underhoull assemblages can now be placed with some confidence to the first four centuries AD. Internally bevelled rims can also be placed within the final four centuries of the MIA (AD 0-400).

Grass tempering enters the record during this period, sometimes on its own or mixed with rock-grits (F6 and F7). Pottery with grass tempered fabric from Kebister and Upper Scalloway were also securely dated to this period (AD0-400). It was observed during this study that vessels with pie-crust and slashed cordon rims from Upper Scalloway, Clickhimin and Underhoull were predominately made with grass tempered clay, dating the use of this medium to the first four centuries AD. Similarly, internally bevelled rim type vessels showed fabric with grass included (F6) and also mixed grit tempering (F5), suggesting they can be included in late MIA wares.

The Greista assemblage must now be viewed as being from this period. As no ash or bones were recovered from the lugged pot (N386) it is unlikely to be a cremation vessel but rather an IA pot placed in a pit perhaps as a votive offering. Pottery was discovered in two pits at Burland, described by the author as ‘votive pits’ due to them being covered by an upturned and decorated quern (Moore & Wilson 2014: 251). Sherds from the same pot (V176) were discovered in both pits. The vessel is described as ‘a thin-walled burnished pot of hard fired sandy clay’ (*ibid*). Votive offerings are well known from this period; pits close to domestic structures have been found to contain broken querns and dishes. Agricultural tools, buried in moor outside the settlement areas, are also observed (Bradley 2005; Murray 2011). The MIA appears to have been steeped in ritual behaviour, especially around food production and processing, suggesting the Greista pot may have been a ritual offering.

6.4 Late Iron Age pottery

During the Late Iron Age building forms show a new genre of architecture appearing. The wheelhouse, sometimes constructed within the broch as seen at Upper Scalloway, and dated to 500 – 650 AD (Sharples 2003:156). These smaller complex structures were a radical change of style with the outward appearance being insignificant compared to the monumental broch towers. The interior of the wheelhouse is a distinct form with stone piers segmenting the interior into cell-like compartments, each with a corbelled ceiling²⁶. The pottery being used was also changing.

6.4.1 Hamilton’s ‘Wheelhouse type’

The pottery from this period, AD400-900, reviewed during this study includes the assemblages from Clickhimin, Kebister and Upper Scalloway. LIA material has also come to light from a recent excavation at Burland, Trondra. This multi-period site was occupied from the Neolithic and includes a structure with LIA occupation horizons (structure 2), which has been radiocarbon dated to AD400-800 (Moore & Wilson 2014: 254). A barley grain from a pit by the hearth in structure 2 was dated to AD390-570 (*cal.* GU-12194), another from an oval metalworking hearth provided a

²⁶ This innovative roofing technique using stone may reflect the decrease in availability of wood in the Isles

date AD390-560 (*cal.* 95%, GU-12191 - *ibid.* 248-249). The pottery from Burland will be discussed below.

Sharples (1998) definition of LIA at Upper Scalloway is characterised by two phases of occupation:

- Early phase 3 – AD500-650
- Late phase 3 – AD650-900

This includes the final occupation of the broch at Upper Scalloway (blocks 7.3, 7.4) and houses 1-9 built around the settlement (Sharples 1998). Radiocarbon dates obtained from heather charcoal in the large central hearth [616], within the reoccupied broch provided a date of AD465-650 (*cal.* 95%, utC-1656) and this was verified by another from a cattle metatarsal in context [259] of AD650-854 (*cal.* 95%, GU-3925 – Sharples 1998: 47). The final abandonment of the broch can be dated to a votive offering of two articulated cattle legs, offered as dedication to the end of the building around AD600-860 (GU-2926) (*ibid.* 50). The external late phase 3 settlement can also be dated to this period; a date from flax seeds in the primary hearth [631] within House 1 was calibrated to AD650-880 (AA 13803). Further dates from these cellular houses were obtained (Table. 49).

Table 49: Iron Age dates from Upper Scalloway

Structure	Context	Source	Calibrated date (95%)	Lab number
MIA Broch	7.5	Radiocarbon	AD258-550	AA 13805
MIA Broch	6.7	Radiocarbon	AD115-445	GU-2924
MIA Broch	7.5	Radiocarbon	AD405-600	utC-1657
House 1	6.4	Radiocarbon	AD420-640	GU-3934
House 1	6.4		AD650-960	AA 13802
Houses 2&3 primary occ.	5.3	Radiocarbon	AD 140-410	GU-3924
Houses 2&3	5.3	Radiocarbon	AD60-340	GU-3936
LIA broch reoccupation	7.3	Radiocarbon	AD650-854	GU-3925
LIA broch reoccupation	7.3	Radiocarbon	AD465-650	utC-1656
LIA broch reoccupation	7.2	Radiocarbon	AD600-860	GU-2926
LIA broch abandonment	7.2	Radiocarbon	AD650-890	AA 13808
LIA broch abandonment	7.2	Radiocarbon	AD650-950	GU-3935
House 8 – final occupation	6.2	Radiocarbon	AD650-880	AA 13803

Pottery was retrieved from LIA structures at Upper Scalloway and these vessels present trends and changes taking place during the period. Fabrics include untempered clay (F1) and grass temper with rock-grits (F6) being predominant. Steatite tempering is now uncommon. Hamilton defines this type of pottery from Jarlshof as Class II or 'Wheelhouse' type and noted that there is no steatite tempering evident in these vessels (1956: 64). He describes large ovoid pots with rounded and beaded rims; also some squared and flattened (Hamilton 1956: 64). Thin walled vessels with grass tempering are also recorded at Howe in Orkney, from Phase 8 or LIA layers (Ross 1994: 252).

Burnished vessels continue to be evident at Upper Scalloway and incised curvilinear decoration of type D6 is noted, as are parallel-lines and triangles (D7). Decoration

appears much finer and more detailed during the LIA as noted in vessel V667, and on vessel V740 with impressed circles between two parallel-lines (D5) - Fig. 69. Similar decoration to vessel V667 is found in the 'Wheelhouse' assemblage at Jarlshof (Hamilton 1956: 78, Fig. 40 no.8); vessel V423 from the LIA dwelling at Burland (MacSween 2014b: 274, Fig. 4.26) and Clickhimin (CLN 7612 – see Appendix 8). Everted rims continue to be popular during this period, as do plain (R1), rounded (R3), rolled (R8), squared (R12) and inverted (R7) rims. The bold ornamented rims seen in the MIA are now absent, as a much finer ware becomes fashionable.



Fig. 69

Two decorated Late Iron Age sherds.

Left, vessel CLN 7612 from Clickhimin and right, V740 from Upper Scalloway

Note V740 has quite a lot of mica added to its fabric creating a sparkly finish to the pot.

Table 50: Upper Scalloway Broch - Late Iron Age pottery

Vessel numbers	Phase 3	Block	Fabric	Decoration	Rim
V866	Reoccupation of broch	7.3			
V1115	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F1	D15	R1
V1117	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F1	D3	R4
V1111	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F1	D7	
V1195	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F6	D1	R4
V1118	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F1	D2	R4
V1116	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F1	D1	
V532	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F1	D1	R3
V577	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F5	D1	R1
V1114	Reoccupation of broch	7.4	F1	D1	R8
V740	Final occup. Of broch	7.2	F6	D5	R1
V667	Final occup. Of broch	7.2	F1	D16	

Table 51: Upper Scalloway; External settlement Late Phase 3 pottery

Vessel numbers	Late Phase 3	Block	Fabric	Decoration	Rim
V1701	House 8	6.2	F6	D1	R4
V2075	House 8	6.2	F5	D3	R4
V1649	Final occup.	6.1	F5	D3	R4
V1931	Broch destruction	7.1	F4	D1	
V233	Middens, southern slopes	9.2	F1	D1	
V1113	Middens, southern slopes	9.3	F1	D7	R4
V149	Middens, southern slopes	9.3	F4	D2	
V148	Middens, southern slopes	9.3	F5	D1	
V1932	Late phase 3	6.5	F4	D2	

At Kebister, the IA occupation sequence appears to cease around AD400 although the excavators noted that medieval structures built on top may have robbed the stonework from later IA buildings. A pit below the medieval teind barn provided a sample of heather charcoal which was dated to AD560-690 (*cal.* 95.6%, GU-2609) confirming there was LIA activity on site (Owen & Lowe 1999: 279). Pottery of 'Wheelhouse' type was uncovered in the final occupation of structure 3. This horizon was radiocarbon dated to 90-500AD (*cal.* 95.5%, GU-2613) so we know LIA material culture was being consumed at Kebister, be it in the very earliest years of the time period (*ibid.* 275).

Table 52: Kebister Late Iron Age pottery

Vessel numbers	Block	Fabric	Decoration	Rim
E184	1296	F1	D6	
E276	822	F1	D6	
E180	1229	F5	D6	
E5	1229	F5	D3	R13
C167	1227	F1	D3	R8
E10	1232	F1	D3	R12

The pottery at Kebister is largely made from untempered clay (F1). The remaining sherds are tempered with rock-grits (F5) and grass (F6). Burnishing is common and two vessels have circular incised designs (E181, E184 – Fig.57) (Dalland & MacSween 1999: 186, Illus. 163). A distinct pattern of incised decoration, described by Brown as 'crenellation' type décor, is observed on a LIA vessel (SF28449) from Old Scatness (Brown 2010: 210). This pattern (D21) is also noted on vessel E180 from Kebister and CLN 791 from Clickhimin (Figs. 70, 71). The Clickhimin example is unusual as the crenellation design (D21) is only on one half of the decorated band with herring-bone incisions on the other half (Fig. 71). Another vessel (674) with varying styles of incised decoration over the body of the pot is noted at Burland (MacSween 2014b: 281, Fig. 4.33). It is so randomly executed it looks like the potter has been practicing different techniques on one pot!



Fig. 70

LIA decorated sherds from Kebister. The design incised on vessel E180, left, is described by Louise Brown as 'crenellation'.

Vessel E184 is on the right.



Fig. 71

Vessel CLN 791 from Clickhimin.

Of LIA date, note the unusual use of two designs within incised parallel lines.

These vessels are finely made and well-fired. Rim types at Kebister include beaded (R13), squared (12), rolled (R8) and inverted (R7).

The vessels from the Burland dwelling, from horizons which has been scientifically dated to AD400-600, have a lot in common with the assemblages from Kebister and Upper Scalloway. They are created with untempered sandy clay, are finely made with very thin walls and often burnished. The vessels here continue to be long necked with angular shoulders (MacSween 2014b: 267). This is particularly noted in the vessels from the second occupation context [F.551] of structure 2 dated to AD650-780 (*cal.* 95%, GU-12193 - *ibid*). Decoration is finely executed as noted on vessel V423 (discussed above) and one sherd (V303) has a neat lattice pattern very similar to 'Wheelhouse' pottery at Jarlshof (see Hamilton 1956: 149, Fig. 68, nos. 2 &

5). Burland rim types include plain (R1), everted (R4), rolled (R8), inverted (R7) and flat (R2), (MacSween 2014b: 226).

6.5 Late Iron Age at Old Scatness

The LIA or Pictish phase at Old Scatness is defined by Dockrill as Phase 7 of the settlement. A change in the architecture is noted, dating to around AD400-850, the cellular type dwellings are smaller than their predecessors, the larger wheelhouses seen in the MIA (Dockrill 2010: 27). These include structures 5, 6, 7, 11 and 25. Modern excavation of these buildings can now offer us a time period in which certain pottery trends can be identified. The secondary occupation of LIA date in structure 5 is confirmed by an archaeomagnetic date from clay in the central hearth [627], providing a date AD570-840 (*cal.* 95% AM3, Dockrill 2010: 44).

Structure 7, described as a Pictish cellular building, was built within the broch, highlighting its tertiary use. Clay from a hearth within this dwelling provided an archaeomagnetic date of AD570-870 (*cal.* 95%, AM24) – see Table 53.

Table 53: Late Iron Age dates for Old Scatness

Structure	Context	Source	Calibrated date (95%)	Lab number
5	071	Radiocarbon	AD810-1020	GU-14785
5	071	Radiocarbon	AD860-1020	GU-14784
5	627	Archaeomagnetic	AD570-840	AM3
6 secondary occ	1138	Radiocarbon	AD660-880	GU-8377
6 secondary occ	175	Archaeomagnetic	AD750-810	AM12
7 primary occ.	2303	Archaeomagnetic	AD460-1150	AM19
7 primary occ.	2308	Archaeomagnetic	AD570-870	AM24
7 primary occ.	2490	Archaeomagnetic	AD290-510	AM48
7 later occ	2290	Radiocarbon	AD440-660	GU-8877
7 cell 2	2248	Radiocarbon	AD680-900	GU-8876
11	3119	Radiocarbon	AD650-870	GU-11099
11	3119	Archaeomagnetic	AD710-800	AM45
25	7104	Radiocarbon	AD350-550	GU-13721
25	7117	Radiocarbon	AD310-540	GU13722
25	7120	Radiocarbon	AD340-540	GU13723

Structures 6 and 11 are wheelhouses with partially corbelled roofs which are described as being parallels to the Jarlshof Wheelhouse II (Dockrill et al 2010: 12). Structure 11 was segmented by stone piers into 6 cells. Various samples for scientific dating were recovered from this structure which showed it was in used between c. AD680-950 (Outram & Batt 2010: 101-102). Structure 6 also provided dates including charred barley from a secondary hearth [1138], AD660-880 (*cal.* 95%, GU-8377) which was verified by an archaeomagnetic date of AD750-810 (*cal.* 95%, AM12 - Dockrill 2010: 57). Structure 25 presented complications for the excavators due to the many layers of modification and occupation (*ibid.* 29). Horizons within the dwelling did however provide a range of dates including one from an ash layer sealed between two layers of stone paving [7101] and [7105]; providing a calibrated date of AD350-550 (*cal.* 95%, GU-13721, *ibid.* 32). Two further dates were obtained from midden layers between the paving [7117] – AD310-540, (*cal.* 95%, GU-13722) and [7120] AD340-540 (*cal.* 95%, GU-13723), confirming the paved floor had been laid between AD340 and AD550 (Dockrill 2010: 29-33).

Pottery found in structure 25 had a variety of rim types including inverted (R7), rolled (R8) rounded (R3). The majority noted were squared (R12) and everted (R4) (Brown 2015: 208). The pottery is made from fine untempered clay (F1) and the predominant tempering when used is quartz occasionally with added rock-grits (F5). Some of the vessels are burnished (SF31904, 30789 & 32556). A sherd with a slashed cordon below the rim of type R15 is noted but its detail is much finer than vessels with this type of decoration from the MIA (see Brown 2015: 208, Fig. 6.2.1). Another slashed cordon sherd (SF5919) similar to the heavier type R15, discussed above, was uncovered from the Viking/Norse interface layers [595] of structure 11 (*ibid.* 222, 218, Fig.6.2.10). The late context raises several questions; has this MIA sherd been mixed in residual midden material built up within the structure, has it been moved up through the stratigraphy of the structure by animal burrowing or, much less likely, were the Vikings still using Iron Age pots two hundred years after migrating to Old Scatness? Another anomaly appears in the Viking layer [507] within structure 5 (Brown 2010: 217, Fig. 6.2.8). Sherd number SF2524 is identical to a Late Iron Age decorated sherd V7031 from Clickhimin. It has impressed circles in a horizontal line along the shoulder of the pot, matching vessel E259 discussed in chapter 5 (Fig. 18).

Further IA sherds appear in Viking and Norse contexts and this will be considered in the discussion below.

The pottery from structure 7, described by Brown as Pictish, displayed various rims types including everted (R4), inverted (R7), squared (R12), and flattened (R2). Less common in these later horizons are rolled (R8) and beaded rims (R13), (Brown 2015: 209). Decoration included a sherd (SF28449) with incised crenellation design similar to those discussed above from Kebister and Clickhimin (Figs. 70, 71). It also has a parallel-line and triangle-incised below, again similar to the multi-decoration noted on CLN 791. Sherd SF28449 was recovered from context [3108] which has been securely dated to AD685-775 (GU-11863) so is in keeping with the similar Late Iron Age examples - (see Outram & Batt 2015: 101). Another sherd from structure 7 displayed the only example of a series of crossed-incised lines (SF 32151), (Brown 2010: 210, Fig. 6.2.4). The only comparable sherd noted in this study is on a stray find, ARC 65390, a vessel from Wiltrow IA settlement in Dunrossness (see Appendix 8).

6.6 Clickhimin revisited



Fig. 72

Aerial photograph of Clickhimin broch site, in the heart of Lerwick.

Image: RCAHMS

The Clickhimin assemblage is a prodigious representation of Iron Age pottery. It demonstrates fashion trends from bold decoration to finely crafted pots and everything in between. While the site itself has been one of mixed excavation and rebuilding, the pottery that survives is extraordinary. Whole pots have been

reconstructed and are now on display in Shetland Museum (Fig. 73), alongside some of the highly decorated sherds from the LIA. This study now offers a further insight into the dates and trends observed in the Clickhimin collection, adding another dimension to the story of this iconic site in the heart of Shetland's capital.



Fig. 73

A selection of Iron Age vessels from Clickhimin; currently on display at Shetland Museum.

Much has been written about Clickhimin and this is summarised concisely in a recent paper by Brian Smith (2015). His detailed and thorough evaluation of letters, drawings, photographs and documents pertaining to the archaeology at Clickhimin offers an alternative discourse to the site's previous documented history; one that is based on reliable datum, something that perhaps Hamilton's (1968) hypothesis lacked.

Records show the site was in poor repair by the 1820s, described by a visiting minister as a mass of stones (Catton 1838: 67). The first and seemingly thorough excavation of the site was initiated by the Shetland Literary and Scientific Society in 1861. Antiquarian Henry Dryden visited Clickhimin before and after this and drew detailed plans of the broch and surrounding structures²⁷ (Fig. 75). Following this initial excavation the site again fell into disrepair, caused by young vandals dismantling the structures during the 1880s (Smith 2015: 7). The story only worsens as a local butcher decided to build a new stable with stones from the site leading to court action and Clickhimin eventually coming under protection of the state in the late 1880s (*ibid*). An image captured by visiting photographer George Washington Wilson

²⁷ These can be viewed at The Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments Record – Canmore online www.rcahms.go.uk Canmore ID. 1049, Site No. HU44SE 2

around 1890 shows the broch and surrounding structures in very poor condition (Fig. 74). During the years between 1908 and 1910 builder, Henry MacLeod, and a team of workers were sent to Clickhimin to consolidate the ruinous broch site (*ibid*: 9). The structures had now been rebuilt, and not virtually untouched since antiquity as intimated by Hamilton (1968).



Fig. 74

Clickhimin site as photographed by George Washington Wilson c. 1890.

Copyright: Shetland Museum and Archives. Photo number NE08532

Smith's recent work follows another interesting review of Clickhimin by Noel Fojut in which he suggests that Hamilton's theory regarding the pre-Iron Age fort was 'almost entirely hypothetical' (1998: 29). Fojut suggests the pottery assemblage may be entirely IA in character suggesting little if any BA material or settlement on site (*ibid*). Smith's research and the current re-evaluation of Clickhimin's pottery add much weight to this argument.



Fig. 75

Henry Dryden's detailed drawing of Clickhimin from 1855.

Image: RCAHMS

The present review of Clickhimin's pottery assemblage was undertaken independent of the constraints of Hamilton's very confusing sections and panels which are penned on the original paper bags in which the pottery was stored. Where noted, these were added to the current datasheet for future reference (Appendix 7). The problems relating to Hamilton's excavation notes and drawings have been discussed at length by Fojut (1998). During 2007 broch specialist Euan MacKie visited Shetland Museum and assessed Clickhimin's pottery assemblage, the first person to look at it since it came to the museum in the 1960s. Unfortunately MacKie's paper remains unpublished.

A selection of 147 diagnostic sherds was reviewed for this study. The findings show the majority, nearly 70% of sherds had grass tempering (F6) and a further 20% were made from untempered clay (F1). Steatite only tempering (F4) accounted for only 1% of the sample. Quartz is also observed in the mixed tempering (F5) as noted at Old Scatness within the Later MIA period. Grass tempering is a trend observed during the same period, and noted at Upper Scalloway, Underhoull (both phases) and Kebister; the earliest use of organic temper dated there to AD70-435 (*cal.* 95.4%, UtC-1152 – Owen & Lowe 1999: 283). It is noted at Old Scatness also in the first four centuries AD.

Looking at the decorated Clickhimin pottery, there are ten varieties recorded within this sample, including decorated rim sherds, incised ornamentation and applied cordons. The majority of decoration types seen at Clickhimin have parallels at other broch and later wheelhouse sites around the isles, as observed in Chapter 3. Three Clickhimin vessels (CLN 7667, CLN 768 & CLN 7611) exhibit a wavy cordon applied to the body of the vessel below the rim of type D13. This decoration form was not detected in the other sites assessed in this study. For comparisons we must look outside the Islands at MIA to LIA sites including Howe, Orkney (Ballin Smith 1994: 255, Illus. 153); Dun Mor Vaul on Tiree (MacKie 1974: 122, Fig. 17); Eilean Olabhat, North Uist (Armit *et al* 2008: 71, Illus. 25, no. 28), and Dun Beag, Skye (MacSween 2002: 147, Fig. 44, no. 6). Similar decoration was also noted at an EIA site, Foshigarry in North Uist; an aisled-roundhouse and souterrain (see Beveridge 1931: 344, Fig. 23) and a souterrain at Tungadale in Skye (Miket 2002: 99, Fig. 31).

Another sherd, CLN 79141 also seems to be unique to Clickhimin. There is a row of stabbed decoration directly below the rim (of type D10). No parallel to this sherd was found.



Fig. 76

Decorated sherds from Clickhimin. Far left, CLN 768 and left, CLN 79141.

Eleven different rim classifications were recorded (see Chapter 4). The most common forms were everted (R4) and everted bevelled (fluted) rims (R6). These two together accounted for 60% of the total number. Bevelled and everted rims were found in phase 6 at Old Scatness, dating to 0-400AD (see above) and at Upper Scalloway broch in the layers dating from 258-600AD, confirming this trend was Late MIA to LIA. Rolled rims (R8) are indicative of MIA – LIA rim morphology and these are represented in the Clickhimin assemblage. One particular design, rolled and flattened (R11) was noted on 3 sherds, unique to Clickhimin in this study. Similar rims are noted at Pool in Orkney (MacSween 2007: 307). These atypical and very slight differences may be indicative of work by an itinerate potter. Willis suggests that slight differences may also highlight sensitive indicators of relative date (2002: 6)



Fig. 77

Large cooking pot with an everted and bevelled rim from Clickhimin. These rims date to the first four centuries AD.

Modern dating can now dispel Hamilton's assumption that these pots were associated with a pre-broch IA fort (Hamilton 1968: 91-96). Fojut recognised this when discussing another IA fort at Burgi Geos, Dunrossness, excavated in the early 1930s by Cecil Mowbray (1936). In his paper Fojut comments on the pottery from Ness of Burgi fort, and notes:

..the dating evidence was ceramic; sherds of well-fired ware with everted rims and cordon-decorated rims. This was paralleled by un-stratified material from Jarlshof which had been ascribed to the pre-broch period, an assumed date which was later carried to material from Clickhimin and Underhoull house site. In fact it can be shown that this pottery type is almost certainly of post-broch date, associated with the wheelhouse phase at both Jarlshof and Clickhimin (1985: page 68).

The fact the sherds from Clickhimin examined in this study have grass tempering endorses Fojut's argument that these sherds are of Late MIA to LIA date. Most of Hamilton's 'fort' pottery was from outside the ring wall in a deep midden rather than occupation layers of the supposed farmstead or fort. Smith's recent investigation reveals that Hamilton's 'Iron Age farmstead' or pre-broch roundhouse is indeed a modern structure. Hamilton supposed a stone built spur on the north wall of the broch was the remnants of a roundhouse, but Smith has scrutinised photographs taken by George Washington Wilson in the 1890s and detailed drawings made by antiquarian Sir Henry Dryden in 1866, showing no such spur visible. What Hamilton recorded was most likely built by MacLean's workmen between 1909 and 1910 to prop up the structure (Smith 2015: 12). The deep midden, so rich in pottery, had probably built up over the centuries during and after the occupation of the broch, the inhabitants obviously throwing their waste material over the ring wall that surrounded the broch settlement.

Smith and Fojut believe there was no BA farmstead or an EIA roundhouse at Clickhimin, rather the structures around the broch were contemporary with the broch or built on the site later with stones robbed from the broch (Smith, 2015; Fojut 1998: 28). Hamilton states the thin scatter of BA pottery, as coming from the gravel surface surrounding the farmstead, and explains the sparsity of finds within his BA farm due to the 'subsequent clearance and to the practice of depositing rubbish some distance from the farmstead itself' (1968: 31). While Hamilton categorised these sherds as contemporary with the LBA ware from Jarlshof, he does acknowledge that the Clickhimin vessels are of a heavier tempered steatite fabric, giving them a dark grey appearance (1968: 33). Certainly, there is steatite tempered pottery in the Clickhimin assemblage, described by Hamilton as barrel-shaped vessels with plain or pointed rims (Hamilton 1968: 33). These vessels appear to be similar in fabric and design as the Mavis Grind ware. A similar vessel (V256) was recovered from Structure 6 at Bayanne (Phase 2B, event 9) and is dated to the LBA/EIA period (MacSween 2014a: 127). As I have noted before the pottery assemblages from the LBA and EIA are so analogous it is challenging to differentiate between the two, as observed at both Mavis Grind and Catpund. As there is little or no structural evidence for there ever being a BA farm on the Clickhimin site I suggest this grey steatitic ware is from the early broch occupation. These findings would confer with Fojut (1998) and Smith's (2015) hypothesis that no pre-broch structures were ever built on the tiny islet of Clickhimin.

Excavations at Old Scatness have also dispelled Hamilton's diffusionist theory that Clickhimin and Jarlshof were overcome by incoming elite, corroborated by the change of material culture. Dockrill confirms the chronological sequence for Old Scatness communicates 'an emerging model for indigenous development' (2015: 470). Excavation in Shetland, Orkney and the Western Isles (Toft's Ness and Cnip) confirm the building of brochs and roundhouses, with their associated portable culture, was not 'driven by external factors' but by indigenous hierarchical developments within IA society in Northern Britain, stimulating changes within populations and their associated architecture and culture (*ibid*).

Chapter 7

The following summative chapter will consider if the aims and objectives of this study have been achieved. Following the reassessment of eight LBA and IA sites from a geographical distribution, ranging from the most northerly island of Unst to the very southern tip of Shetland's mainland, a holistic review of the assemblages curated in Shetland Museum has been achieved. The findings of this study has much to add, not only to the regional narrative, but also the wider Scottish Atlantic field of prehistoric pottery studies.

7. 1 Questions and answers

This study has answered many outstanding questions. The Greista assemblage, thought to be of BA origin can now be assigned to the MIA. The highly burnished lugged vessel is most likely a votive offering, a spiritual gift placed within a deep pit. Intentional deposition is noted above in other Shetland assemblages and also the Western Isles. A shared cultural tradition it is also noted in Orkney at Minehowe and the Cairns (Towers 2010: 132-135). The Minehowe sherds, deposited with the knee from a man's skeleton,²⁸ were broken, but not abraded from being moved around; likewise the Greista sherds are in excellent condition. The fact that it was part of a vessel rather than a whole may also suggest an intentional act, where only a portion of the vessel was deliberately placed; the Cairn's 'offering' included half a finely-made globular vessel containing twelve decorated bone combs (*ibid*). The Greista pot is rare within the Shetland record, being highly burnished and lugged, which may have rendered it distinctive and fitting for ritual purposes.

The Ness of Sound assemblage has also given up more of its secrets. The cellular structures surrounding the burnt mound contained grass tempered and burnished pots used by an IA population (as Alan Small suggested) but the typology of fabric used and rim type (rolled) would suggest a later period than he supposed, of MIA date rather than EIA. This introduces another question. Was burnt mounds used well into the Iron Age in Shetland, remembering the Cruester assemblage also contained similar attributes? Or, does the pottery from these structures highlight a reuse in some form, many years after they are believed to be redundant? Further studies of

²⁸ Evidence showed this man had met a very violent death.

burnt mound pottery are therefore recommended to look for further evidence of activity in these structures during MIA period.

The collections from Greista and Ness of Sound should now be published for future reference.

We have also gained a better understanding of the Underhoull assemblage. The people who worked and lived in the MIA 'huts', were using the same style of pottery as their compatriots at Clickhimin, Bayanne and Old Scatness. No signs of hierarchy can be noted in the pottery used by contemporary non-broch residents living in settlements such as Kebister and Bayanne. This study has established they were using the same type and style of vessels. Tower's study in Orkney revealed a similar picture at Skail and Riggan of Kami; the broch pottery being analogous to assemblages from outlying roundhouse settlement sites (2010: 116).

Small's interpretation of material uncovered within the broch-period building was that of a pottery workshop. Finds including broken pots (possibly used for grog tempering), worked clay and clay-impregnated pumice supports his model, and this is further validated by a comparable pottery workshop excavated at Howe, Orkney (Ballin Smith 1994: 75).

Grog tempering at Underhoull appears to be specific to the island of Unst, suggesting an interesting paradigm. Why it is unique to this small island remains a mystery. Vessels with grog inclusions are noted in Orkney (Towers 2010: 158). Different island groups are seen to utilise the geology present in the region to temper their clay, (prehistoric Orcadians, for example, were using local Dolerite), but a conscious decision to use something different, such as grog, may have cultural connotations rather than its technical merits. Woodward suggests that 'inclusions themselves may have held symbolic significance in several ways', including ancestral and possibly long-curated vessels being crushed and added to new vessels, embodying family ties with the present (2002: 109). She uses white quartz as another example, noting these inclusions are often 'extruding from the pot exterior' suggesting they are intended to be seen (Fig. 78), (*ibid*).



Fig. 78

MIA sherd from recently excavated site in Channerwick. This well-finished vessel shows quartz inclusions protruding from the smoothed surface, possible a deliberate act?

The current re-assessment of the Clickhimin pottery has added to the ongoing discourse amongst archaeologists and historians. All research undertaken may be influenced by the person involved, described as ‘personal reactivity’²⁹ and this certainly played a part in Hamilton’s hypothesis regarding Clickhimin’s history. The analysis gathered during this study, while not burdened by Hamilton’s influences, cannot absolutely verify that BA vessels are present or absent due to the complexities of pottery classification from this period, discussed above. The steatite tempered elements within the assemblage are comparable to EIA material from sites such as Kebister and Bayanne so can therefore be added to the current narrative that Clickhimin was purely an Iron Age site. A complete review of the whole Clickhimin assemblage combined with the current pottery analysis is recommended and should reveal more of its fascinating story.

Many of Shetland Museum’s ‘stray finds’, assessed in this study are now better understood. The group of 206 sherds are now categorised by fabric, rim type and decoration adding much to their narrative in the museum record.

While positive outcomes have been accomplished during this study there are still some unanswered questions. The small Catpund assemblage remains a conundrum that only scientific dating can solve. Dating by thermoluminescence in a future study may have the answers we need. A future re-assessment of the Mavis Grind assemblage is also recommended with a view to further scientific dating of pottery sherds with the aspiration that Shetland’s pottery typology will be eventually be written.

²⁹ See Prosser 1998: 104.

7.2 Obvious trends

This study has confirmed that steatite tempering is a significant element throughout the history of Shetland's BA and IA pottery. Its use highlights a very regional trend, although this technology also reached Orkney's shores, either through trade or contact with BA Shetlanders (Dockrill *et al*, 2007: 267). An enduring hypothesis that burnt mounds were used for cooking (perhaps an element of ritual feasting) during the BA (Doughton 2014; Moore & Wilson 1999, 2014) , may suggest the catalyst for the increase of steatite tempering in BA cooking vessels, being a medium that can withstand very high temperatures. People will adopt new ideas using the ingredients that are available to them and this is evident in the widespread use of steatite tempering. It must have functioned well as a medium to aid the firing process in vessel production, and as an effective cooking pot, so it is logical that we see its continued use well into the IA. By the LIA period steatite tempering had gone out of use (or fashion) and that may suggest that as pottery firing techniques improved its inclusion was less necessary.

Evidence presented in Chapter 6 highlights new trends in pottery morphology during the MIA and LIA periods. The use of untempered clay, inclusions of grass and quartz increases as steatite tempering wanes during the late MIA and well through the LIA. By the LIA untempered and quartz only tempering takes precedence. Vessels become much finer, perhaps as potters become more skilled both in production technique and firing capabilities. This increased skill is also evident in the technique required by the potter to perfect a rolled rim as noted in the MIA and LIA.

Trends in decoration can be observed, perhaps a sign of their functionality. During the MIA highly burnished vessels with bevelled rims appear to be used for cooking, and suggest these pots required lids. Burnishing is very common during the MIA and LIA period across Scotland, some believe as a skeuomorphic imitation of metal vessels, or Romano-British Black Burnished ware (Simon Clarke pers. comm.). The bosses noted on the vessel from Tangwick burnt mound may indeed emulate the rivets required to produce a metal container.

Boldly decorated rims are a trend noted during the MIA, but decoration becomes much finer and detailed during the LIA, with a new design, classed by Brown as 'crenellation' noted for the first time (See Fig. 70). Finely executed designs increase

in the LIA record, similar to assemblages in the Western Isles, in complete contrast to the picture in Orkney during the same period where decoration is almost non-existent (Towers 2010: 155). This is an interesting feature of the Shetland's cultural affinities with the Western Isles, both in pottery styles and wheelhouse architecture. Orkney appears to stand alone within the island groups with undecorated pots and no wheelhouses discovered to date.

7.3 Conclusions

A Museum is a kind of cultural warehouse (Annis 1994: 21).

Shetland Museum store is a cultural warehouse, with many racks of boxes containing the community's material culture. Each box holds many pieces of the vast cultural jigsaw which makes these Islands distinctive. Some boxes hold ancient material that has been excavated many decades ago, waiting to be better understood and appreciated. MacSween makes a good point when discussing assemblages excavated many years ago:

In particular, assemblages from old excavations are often disregarded by researchers because they are perceived to be incompatible with more recently excavated material and unsuitable for sustaining wider discussions. The result is that many of these are used by researchers only to provide comparable material (2002: 145).

This study has gone some way to change this perceived opinion by past researchers; the assemblages from old excavations re-evaluated here add much to the narrative and understanding of Shetland's prehistoric pottery. New information has been added to their story; pottery trends noted can now be dated more precisely adding new interpretations to the museum record. This narrative can now complement the work completed by Mason, on Shetland's earlier collection, and Towers' review of Orkney's IA pottery. Collectively, a much fuller comprehension of the North Atlantic Rim ceramic record is possible and confirms the significant value of old assemblages curated in local museums.

The current study has resulted in a digitised catalogue of all sherds examined which is now available for future scrutiny thus aiding the collection's accessibility for all.

Museum specialist Neil MacGregor confirms the importance of new research within stored collections:

It is scholarship which adds a new dimension to accessibility... we believe it is essential that scholarship remain a priority if we are to serve the even larger public we expect in the next few years. (1994: 248)

The current study is not an attempt to revolutionise pottery studies in the Northern Isles. It is not written by an archaeologist but by a museum curator. It offers a comprehensive database and photographs of every sherd analysed, samples from eight excavated assemblages and the stray-find collection within Shetland Museum. It is a valuable aid for future researchers and curators to access; but it is also a working document and digital catalogue. New material should be added as current excavation assemblages are accepted into the collection, including Bayanne, Burland and Cruester.

As discussed, previous excavated assemblages have been analysed by pottery specialists in the past, offering reports showing different trends. The diagnostic sherds reviewed here are part of the important jigsaw of ceramic tradition, brought together to offer a comprehensive database; each piece analysed with a universal system of categorisation and listed using a newly created classification method. This study has afforded the author the experience to recognise pottery trends and the identification of fabric, therefore new incoming assemblages, such as Channerwick and West Ayre, Hillswick will be recorded and reported using this methodology.

The sequencing of Shetland's LBA and EIA pottery remains fraught with difficulties. As discussed in Chapter 2, archaeologists who have excavated in Shetland would have appreciated an island-wide pottery sequence to help unravel some of these issues. Hedges considered the complexities of the Shetland sequence when discussing the Tougs assemblage (1986). He noted that while we have LBA material from Jarlshof, 'functional undecorated bucket to barrel-shaped pots', not all sites from the same period fit neatly into the Jarlshof sequence (1986: 30-32). He suggests that pottery specialist Audrey Henshall realised this when she was examining the Benie Hoos assemblage in the late 1950s and 'excused herself from reporting on its place in the sequence for Shetland and on its affinities' (Hedges 1986: 32).

This problem cannot be unravelled until a thorough dating programme is undertaken. What this dissertation does offer is the menu and springboard from which this future study can be commenced. The detailed Excel sheets of each assemblage and stray finds (see Appendix 7) offer the information required for such a project; every sherd with organic material attached, necessary for radiocarbon dating, is listed and can now be easily searched and accessed. Decorated sherds can be examined for comparison from the digital catalogue, improving the access to collections that are held in storage. This offers the opportunity to save valuable time for not just researchers but museum staff; it is no longer necessary to go through boxes and finds-lists to see that certain sherd with the unique decoration. Trends in fabric, decoration and rim type can now be easily retrieved. I hope this database and digitised catalogue presents the catalyst for future study so that Shetland pottery can be further classified and better understood. This study has provided Shetland Museum's first digital reference collection of the Island's LBA and IA pottery assemblages, and hopefully a legacy to inspire future research, that one day we will achieve that illusive typology of Shetland pottery.

Finally, and most importantly, this thesis has afforded us a deeper understanding, not only of pottery assemblages in Shetland, but of the artistry, skills and belief systems of the people who created them.

Glossary of Terms

Bevelled: The surface is angled or slanted.

Burnishing: A surface decoration that is both decorative and functional, giving the vessel a smooth polished surface. This gives a good visual appearance but also helps the permeability of the pot by strengthening the bonding of the coils by compressing the surface. Burnishing is achieved by rubbing the exterior of the vessel before firing with a smooth beach pebble or other tool.

Carination/carinated: The potter moulds the shape of the pot to form a shoulder as seen in this image below.



Coil or ring Built: Coils of clay are built up in rings to create a vessel.

Cordon: Strips of rolled clay applied to the outside of the vessel for decoration.

Diffusion: The spread of practices and beliefs from one community or culture to another.

Everted: Turned outwards as noted in vessel rims

Firing: The process where vessels are 'cooked' until they have turned ceramic.

Grog: Broken vessels which are crushed and added to clay as a temper.

Impressions: Decoration which has been pressed into the damp clay before firing, using implements such as bird bone, whipped cord, shell or ring headed pins.

Inclusions: Also known as temper, this can be various matter e.g. rock grits, grog, steatite, grass, which are added to the clay to either make the clay more workable or to aid the water in the clay to escape as steam during the firing process.

Incisions/incised: A form of decoration where a tool has been used. This is pushed into the clay to score the surface of the vessel before firing. Also see stab and drag.

Inverted: Turned inwards as noted in vessel rims.

Lentoid: Lentoid is a geometric shape of a three-dimensional body, best described as a circle viewed from one direction and a convex lens viewed from an orthogonal direction.

Oxidised: With the good firing conditions the ceramic becomes completely oxidised turning pink or brown in colour.

Plastic decoration: Strips of workable clay which is applied to the outside of the vessel for decoration, before firing takes place. Also see cordons.

Pinching technique: A form of decoration where the potter has pinched the clay to form patterns, such as seen with 'pie-crust' rims.

Ring impressed: Impressed decoration using a ring headed pin or other circular implement.

Rusticated: Roughened, as in the surface of the vessel is rubbed with grass or straw to roughen the outside, perhaps to aid handling when the pot is used for cooking.

Shoulder: Where the potter has brought the top of the vessel into a narrower 'neck' making a shoulder along the outside of the pot. Also see carination.

Slip: A suspension of clay and water (slip or wash) that coats the entire vessel surface, often changing its colour; it is applied before firing.

Smoothing: When the outside or inside surface of a vessel is smoothed using a cloth, organic material or stone polisher.

Spalling: Caused when the water within the clay has escaped violently during the firing. These 'spalls' are usually in the form of discs that have shattered off the surface of the vessel wall.

Stab and drag: – this form of decoration is a cross between an incision and an impression where a tool is stabbed into the wet clay then dragged through to create a design.

Steatite: Soapstone; a soft rock that can be easily crushed, sometimes added to clay as a tempering agent. When heated steatite becomes very hard and heat resistant. Known in Shetland as *kleber*.

Tempering: See inclusions above

Tooling: Using a tool or implement to make incised decoration. See stab and drag above.

Whipped-cord/cord impressed: Impressed decoration where whipped cord has been used to mark the clay.

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Appendix 1

A short history of North British pottery

The first evidence for pottery reaching the British shores was around 4000 BC. These were round-based carinated (defined shouldered) bowls with open flaring rim. Radiocarbon dates available for the use of these bowls between 4000-3600BC (Gibson 2011: 70). In Scotland, the carinated bowl dominates the early Neolithic (c. 3500BC) (Gibson 2011: 76-77). By around 3750 BC a new type of thick-walled globular bowl appears in Ireland and Southern Britain (*ibid*). In the north of Scotland two distinct styles of pottery was found in Orkney and the Western Isles, classed Unstan Ware and Hebridean Jars (Gibson 2011: 76) . These have multiple carinations and are highly decorated with incised triangles. The earliest radiocarbon dates for Unstan bowls, from the Knap of Howar (Ritchie 1983), is 3500 BC but the bulk of Unstan wares have been found in funerary contexts dating to around 3200 BC; some of these pots are encrusted with soot suggesting they were used for cooking before they were used for cremation interments (Gibson 2011: 76).

By the mid-4th millennium BC in Britain and Ireland, impressed wares appear in the archaeological record, classed as Peterborough Ware (Laing 2014: 25, Gibson 2011: 78). These thick rimmed vessels were highly decorated often with incised patterns of twisted whipped cord. Impressed wares are known Scotland by the term 'Grooved Ware'. These tub or bucket shaped vessels appear on Orkney, uncovered at Skara Brae and Barnhouse, and date to 3400 – 3100 BC (Gibson 2011: 84). Grooved Ware is the first example of flat bottomed vessels in the UK and they are most frequently found within ritual sites, for example the passage graves of Orkney and Ireland (*ibid*). Following a 500 year old tradition of Grooved Wares a new type of vessel enters the archaeological record around 2400 BC – the Beaker. These well-made, thin-walled pots with S-shaped profiles are not unlike modern drinking tankards; some had handles which suggested they may have been vessels for drinking. Beakers were highly decorated with encircling motifs of twisted cord impressions (*ibid*: 86). The Beaker tradition spread quickly across Britain and Ireland from Continental Europe highlighting likely population movement and close cultural links with the continent. Other ceramic forms such as food vessel urns, plain and collared urns are clearly

associated with burial and ritual activities and survive into the middle and later Bronze Age.

The burial practices and ritual sites of the Neolithic and Bronze Ages, change with the demise of stone circles and henges (Gibson 2011:109). This coincides with distinct changes in the ceramic record from 1000-600 BC, with undecorated and coarser urns, bucket-shaped tubs and jar being the norm – gone is the highly decorative pottery of the earlier Bronze Age, although some cordoned forms persist in Northumberland (*ibid*).

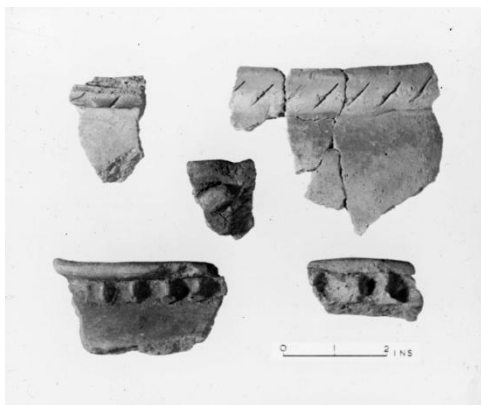
By the end of the Bronze Age and into the Iron Age (c. 800BC) there appears to be a change in material culture from the previous two millennia. Iron makes an appearance and society begins to change throughout the British Isles, nucleated settlements and hillforts are built and society appears to become increasingly hierarchical (*ibid*: 109, Cunliffe 2005: 69, 597). The burial practices and ritual sites of the Neolithic and Bronze Age, such as stone circles and henges are no longer being built (Gibson 2011:109). This coincides with distinct changes in the ceramic record from 1000-600 BC, with undecorated and coarser urns, bucket-shaped tubs and jars being the norm – gone are the highly decorative pottery of the Earlier Bronze Age, although some cordoned forms persist in Northumberland (*ibid*).



Reconstructed vessel from Clickhimin's ring wall layers.

North, in the Hebrides, Orkney and Shetland, termed the 'Atlantic Zone' by Gibson, some vessels show simple incised and finger impressed decoration (Gibson 2011: 110, Cunliffe 2005: 117-119). Decorated ceramic assemblages from this period from

broch settlements including Clickhimin and Jarlshof in Shetland suggest that pottery was still an important component of Iron Age material culture, compared to other areas in Scotland, where simple and unremarkable pots become standard. Gibson suggests this could be because of the lack of trees in these exposed regions. He asks: “Were the later Bronze Age populations of mainland Scotland better wood-workers than potters?” (Gibson 2011:110).



Decorated pottery sherds from Clickhimin broch period.

During the Iron Age period, from 600BC until the arrival of the Romans, there are large variances between North and South Britain; in Southern England haematite coated bowls are manufactured with furrowed necks and flared rims (not unlike the carinated bowls of the Early Neolithic). Incised decoration is inlaid or highlighted with a contrasting white substance, but there are also coarser undecorated wares, as well as high quality black burnished ware (Gibson 2011: 119). Pedestal bases also make an appearance for the first time (Cunliffe 2005: 12). The fine wares from this period exhibit such technical ability the emergence of specialist production centres are suggested (*ibid*: 97, 504).

From the middle to later British Iron Age (500-300 BC) a new ceramic tradition appears which is greatly influenced by the European La Tène pottery, first discovered in a well-preserved lakeside settlement at Neuchâtel in Switzerland. This style of pottery, and accompanying metalwork, typifies a distinct style of Celtic artwork (*ibid*). It is also during this period that wheel-turned pots and pottery kilns begin to make an appearance. By the time the Romans arrive on our shores ceramic assemblages begin to highlight tribal specific wares (Cunliffe 2005: 104, Gibson

2011: 122). Imported wheel-thrown pottery from the 1st century AD, classed as Belgic ware, makes an appearance during this period. This fine high-quality pottery soon inspired local reproductions, their elegant forms so uniform in make and design, suggests specialist potters are at work (Cunliffe 2005: 116, Gibson 2011: 122).

During the middle Iron Age, notable differences come to light between south-east Britain and the north-west. In the south and east, pottery is still an important component of the material culture while in the north and west of Britain, except for the extreme north-west, pottery appears to be much less common and in some places non-existent (Cunliffe 2005: 117). The picture is very different in the extreme north-west of Scotland, including Caithness, Sutherland, the Western Isles, Orkney and Shetland. These communities were producing distinctive high-quality wares, highlighting the importance of ceramics in their culture (*ibid*). Pottery trends in Shetland during this time include elaborately decorated rims with applied cordons and bands of incised decoration (see Chapter 6).

Appendix 2

The importance of pottery study

It is not possible to define a time when humans first exploited clay, the earliest archaeological evidence of its use was found in caves dating to the Upper Palaeolithic period (30,000-32,000 years ago) in central and Western Europe. Female figurines crafted from fired and unfired clay were uncovered in Czechoslovakia dating to 30,000 BC (Laing 2014: 7). When burnt or fired clay was first used to make pots has not been ascertained, but the earliest known archaeological vessels were skeuomorphs replicating birch-bark containers (Rice 2005: 8). As noted above, pottery reached the British shores around 4,000 BC and spread rapidly throughout the isles (Gibson 2011: 69). Laing suggests pottery was necessary for storage within a settled agricultural community. These early vessels had round bases, copying leather containers, but had the ability to be set directly in the open-fire for heating food (2014: 23).

What can pottery tell us about the society who used it? Laing proposes that *as a result of logical reasoning, scientific analysis and cross referencing with other material, pottery has become invaluable for making inferences about ancient societies* (2014: 7). Pottery specialist Clive Orton suggests three types of evidence can be gleaned from prehistoric pottery:

- Dating evidence
- Distribution evidence relating to trade/exchange
- Evidence for function and/or status (1993: 23)

Pottery is non-perishable in its fired state, and is found in virtually all parts of the globe, offering the researcher a unique window into the people who created and used it. Gibson suggests pottery can reveal more about prehistoric people than any other type of artefact (2011: 137). He offers a detailed list of the virtues of ceramic study, proposing much can be learned from pottery, about the people who made and used it. Including:

- What people were eating, by analysing food residues adhering to the insides of vessels. Impressions in the surface of the pots can be identified, such as the types of grain being processed and consumed.
- Insights into real people. Often the potter's fingerprints are revealed on the surface of the pot. It may be possible to identify individual potters in cases where more than one pot is made in the same way, and with similar decoration.
- What the pot was used for; for example drinking, eating, storage, or burial. The context which the ceramic is found gives clues to its use. In addition, soot on the outside of the pot can be indicative of it having been placed on an open-fire, perhaps for cooking.
- The identification of evolving style and fashions including regional similarities and divisions.
- Trade networks, including the pots themselves, or the material required for their manufacture. For example, pottery has been discovered at Toft's Ness, Orkney which has steatite tempering (Dockrill *et al*, 2007: 267). There is no steatite in Orkney so either the pot or the temper was imported, most likely from Shetland.
- Ritual and belief – for example pots used for cremation burial purposes. Some whole or broken pots may be ritually placed within a building, marking the construction or closure of the dwelling.
- The social status of the population utilising the pottery. For example, were the people who lived in the Iron Age brochs using the same pottery as those living in the surrounding settlement? This may highlight hierarchy within the broch.
- The possibility to date sites by examining style, typology or fabric.

Appendix 3

Datasheet for Clickhimin

	Sherd ID	Site name	Trench	Context	Phase	No sherds	Thickness mm	Weight g	Rim code	Rim Description	Rim (no.)	Bases (no.)	Others (no.)	Body sherds (no.)	Rim/base diameter	EVE/Rim /base %	Decoration code	Decoration description	fabric code	Fabric Description	Grain size	Shape	Sorted	Stone/Mineral identification & %	Vegetable inclusions	Handmade	Description of surface finishing	Slip	Smoothing	Burnish	Dust	Wiped	Finger	Knife	Veg Imp	Food Dep	Firing	Colour	Photo ID		
1	CLN 7989	Clickhimin		2		7	8.20	230.80	R6	Everted, rigged and bevelled internally by finger	1.00			6	Too small		D1	No decoration, mica present giving sheen to vessel surface	F5	Clay with mica, tempered with quartz, some steatite and other rocks	coarse	quartz is angular, rest are rounded	mixed	Quartz 10%		slab built	smoothed		x				?	x			soot	Oxidised with a reduced core	5yr 5/1 on outside, 2.5yr 6/3 interior	CLN 7989	
2	CLN 7988	Clickhimin	Wheelhouse			11	6.40	379.40	R6	Everted, rigged and double bevelled internally by finger	5.00			6	200mm	50%	D1	No decoration, mica present giving sheen to vessel surface	F5	Clay with mica, tempered with quartz, some steatite and other rocks	as above	as above	mixed	as above		slab built	smoothed		x				?	x			soot, and food residues	reduced	5yr 5/1	CLN 7988	
3	CLN 7987	Clickhimin	Wheelhouse	section 2	L3	10	11	751.20	R6	Everted, rigged and double bevelled internally by finger	5.00			5	360mm	50%	D1	No decoration, mica present giving sheen to vessel surface	F5	Clay with mica, tempered with quartz, some steatite and other rocks	as above	as above	mixed	as above		slab built	smoothed		x				?	x			soot and food residues	reduced	5yr 5/1	CLN 7987	
4	CLN 7635	Clickhimin				1	9.60	77.60	R6	Everted, rigned and double bevelled internally by finger	1.00				290mm	7.50%	D1	none, double bevelled rim, mica	F5	mica dust, quartz, steatite, grass and wiped with grass	coarse	subangular	mixed	Mixed grits, 30%	grass	slab built	Wiped with grass, smoothed		x				x	x			soot and food residues	Oxidised with a reduced core well fired, oxidised on outer surface	5yr 5/2	CLN 7635	
5	CLN 7629	Clickhimin				1	9.20	100.10	R4	Everted	1.00				200mm	8.50%	D3	none, burnished	F6	quartz sand, steatite and grass tempering	coarse	subangular	mixed	mixed grits, 25%	grass	slab built	Burnished		smoothed with grass		x			x			food residues	reduced, oxidised on outer surface	5yr 4/1	CLN 7629	
6	CLN 7637	Clickhimin	Piva	out 2L	19	1	7.60	18.90	R4	Strongly everted, rolled over with score along the rim ridge	1.00				too small		D3	burnished, mica dust	F5	mostly quartz, small amount steatite	coarse	subangular and angular	mixed	quartz 7%, steatite 1%, grass	possible grass	slab built	Burnished		x		x	Mica				soot	well fired	grey ware	CLN 7637		
7	CLN 7622	Clickhimin	Sect 3	Mid lay	5	1	9.10	31.90	R9	Applied rolled and everted	1.00				Too small		D1	no decoration	F6	quartz and mixed grits, grass	coarse	subround ed	mixed	mixed grits 10%	grass	slab built	wiped						x				soot	Oxidised on outer surface some oxidation	5yr 5/4	CLN 7622	
8	CLN 7030 (1)	Clickhimin	Broch interior	Low level		1	7.60	29.70	R12	T shaped, flattened	1.00				200mm	11.50%	D1	no decoration	F6	steatite, grass	coarse	subround ed	poorly sorted	steatite 35%	grass	slab built	wiped						x						10yr 5/1	CLN 7030	
9	CLN 7030 (2)	Clickhimin	broch interior	Low level		1	7.20	24.10	R3	Irregular rim, plain, internal bevel	1.00				230mm	10%	D1	no decoration	F6	steatite, grass	coarse	subangular	poorly sorted	steatite 50%	grass	slab built	Grass wiped						x				food residues	reduced, well fired oxidised on outer surface, ? Burnt after use	7.5yr 4/1	CLN 7030(3)	
10	CLN 7631	Clickhimin	3A	Out	2nd layer	1	6.40	83.00	R4	Sharply everted	1.00				250mm	11.50%	D1	no decoration	F6	mixed grits, quartz, mica, grass	coarse	subangular	poorly sorted	mixed grits 15-20%	grass	slab built	Burnished				x									CLN 7631	
11	CLN 7621	Clickhimin	Trench 2 (4)	outside ring wall		1	6.00	55.50	R9	Rolled and everted, uneven finish to rim	1.00				120mm	17.50%	D3	no decoration, burnished	F6	mica, quartz, ? quartz sand, grass grass tempered, some unidentified grits	coarse	subangular	poorly sorted	quartz 10%	grass	slab built	Burnished										soot and food residues	unevenly fired, oxidised and	5yr 4/1	CLN 7621	
12	CLN 7032 (7 and 4)	Clickhimin				2	6.80	56.10	R2	plain, flat rim	2.00				210mm	17%	D1	no decoration	F6					grass	slab built	Grass wiped		x					x				food residues	reduced	10yr 4/1	CLN 7032 (4 and 7)	
13	CLN 7034 (1)	Clickhimin	panel 5A	out	ringwall surface	6	5.40	160.90	R4	Slightly everted	3.00			3	260mm	19.50%	D8	Incised 2cm chevrons above horizontal line at the carination of the pot (on the neck) 5cm below the rim. Incised 2cm chevrons between parallel horizontal lines	F6	mixed grits, quartz, grass grass tempered, some very fine unidentified grits				2-3%	grass	slab built	? Burnished		x		?		x	x			food residues	reduced grey ware	10yr 6/1	CLN 7034 (1)	
14	CLN 792	Clickhimin	Trench 1			7	6.70	119.50						7			D8		F6		fine		well sorted		grass	slab built	finger wiped						x	x			soot	well fired	10yr 5/2	CLN 792	
15	CLN 7999	Clickhimin	1 P1	3L		1	12.80	89.10	R6	Sharply everted, rigged and double bevelled internally by finger, incised along outer edge	1.00				320mm	14.50%	D7	Incised diagonal line 2cm below rim, incised line in rim edge	F5	quartz, rock and sand	coarse	angular	poorly sorted	quartz 10%		slab built	wiped						x				soot	well fired	10yr 5/2	CLN 7999	
16	CLN 7998	Clickhimin				1	6.80	61.20	R6	Everted, rigged and bevelled internally by finger	1.00				180mm	10.50%	D1	no decoration	F6	quartz, steatite, mica, grass	coarse	subangular	poorly sorted	quartz 3%		slab built	smoothed		x									reduced and oxidised	5yr 5/3	CLN 7998	
17	CLN 79142 a	Clickhimin	panel 2	1st layer	inside ringwall	1	5.50	21.60						1			D7	Burnished sherd with 4 incised horizontal lines across the body, and angled lines above this. This was probably done with a comb. 2 incised horizontal lines with 2 identical spaced lines going outwards diagonally incised scroll decoration	F6	grass tempering, steatite and unidentified grits	coarse	subround ed	well sorted		grass	slab built	highly burnished				x							well fired	7.5yr 4/1	CLN 79142a	
18	CLN 79144 b	Clickhimin	panel 1	3rd layer		1	9.60	11.80						1			D8		F6	mica, quartz, ? quartz sand, grass unidentified grits, grass, mica	coarse	subangular	well sorted	quartz 3%	grass	slab built	mica in the clay, sandy feel, wiped, buff coloured						x				reduced and oxidised	10yr 5/2	CLN 79144b		
19	CLN 79146 c	Clickhimin				1	4.80	6.80						1			D6		F6		coarse	subround ed	well sorted	2-3%	grass	slab built	burnished				x						soot	well fired	2.5yr 4/2	CLN 79146 c	
20	CLN 7642	Clickhimin	panel2	3rd layer		1	12.40	87.00	R6	Sharply everted with rigged and bevelled internally by finger, with incised line on rim edge	1.00				Too small		D1	no decoration	F5	quartz, rock grits, mica	coarse	subangular	poorly sorted			slab built	wiped						x				soot	oxidised and reduced	10yr 5/2	CLN 7642	
21	CLN 7920	Clickhimin				1	9.40	55.80				1.00					D1	no decoration	F5	quartz, unidentified rock grits	coarse	angular	poorly sorted	quartz 10% rock grits 10%		slab built	wiped with grass						x					reduced	5yr 6/3	CLN 7920	
22	7025 (6)	Clickhimin	5A	outside	3rd layer	1	11.30	29.40	R3	plane with bevel on outer edge	1.00				220mm	7%	D1	no decoration, 2 suspension holes 2cm apart and 1.5 and 2 cm below the rim	F4	heavily tempered with steatite	coarse	subround ed	poorly sorted	steatite 50%		slab built											soot	grey ware oxidised and reduced	10yr 4/1	CLN 7025 (6)	
23	CLN 79134	Clickhimin		4		1	9.50	23.50	R2	flat plain rim	1.00						D7	Incised line	F6	quartz, mica, grass	coarse	subangular	well sorted		10% grass	slab built	feels sandy and rough							x					oxidised and reduced	5yr 4/3	CLN 79134
24	CLN 7942	Clickhimin	inside ringwall			1	8.60	26.20				1.00			120mm	20%	D7	incised criss-cross lines on the base of the pot, for storage rather than cooking as this would have burned off no decoration but finger marks evident	F6	quartz, grass, rock grits	coarse	subangular	poorly sorted	quartz 5-19%, rock grits 10%	grass	slab built	feels sandy and rough											oxidised and reduced	5yr 4/4	CLN 7942	
25	CLN 7033	Clickhimin				3	7.10	54.80				3.00			140	36%	D1		F5	quartz, rock grits, mica	coarse	subangular	poorly sorted	quartz 3%, rock grits 1-2%		slab built	feels sandy and rough							x	x			soot	reduced oxidised and reduced	10yr 5/3	CLN 7033
26	CLN 7939	Clickhimin	panel 5A	GG4	2nd layer	1	11.70	98.40				1.00			100mm	100%	D6	incised spiral design on base, not for cooking foot ring on base. Hamilton describes this as a circular impression	F5	steatite and rock grits	coarse	angulat	poorly sorted	steatite 30%, rock grits 155		slab built	smooth and soapy		x									reduced	7.5yr 5/2	CLN 7939	
27	CLN 7943	Clickhimin	panel 17	GG4		1	6.90	40.00				1.00			100mm	22.50%	D5		F6	steatite, mixed grits and grass	coarse	very small grits	well sorted	steatite 20%, rock grits 10-15%	grass	slab built	Burnished											reduced		CLN 7943	

Appendix 4

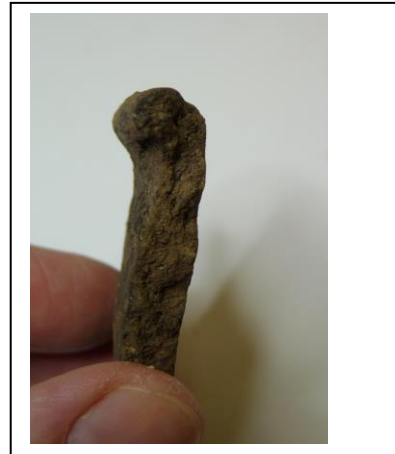
Typology Sheets

Fabrics

Fabric Type 1 - untempered clay

Left: Stray Find (ARC 2002.275)

Right: Upper Scalloway (V863)



Fabric Type F2 - Vesicular pottery - coarse with large grits

Left: Sumburgh Airport (Find No. 625)

Right: Stray Finds (ARC 65368)



Fabric Type F3 - Coarse pottery, large grits of mixed rock and steatite

Left: Kebister (C131)

Right: Wiltrow (ARC 65390 pot 5)



Fabric Type F4 - steatite tempered

Left: Mavis Grind (MG 1113)

Right: Underhoull (UH N60)



Fabric Type F5 Mixed fabric - rock grits, quartz, granite, steatite

Left: Kebister (E5)

Right: Kebister (D9)



Fabric Type F6 - Grass and rock grits

Left: Upper Scalloway (V866)

Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7635)



Fabric Type F7 - Grass only

Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7670)

Right: Underhoull (UH NS3)



Fabric Type 8 - Grog

Left: Stray Find (ARC 2002.291)

Right: Underhoull (UH NS3)



Appendix 5

Typology Sheets

Decoration

Type D1: Undecorated



Top Left: Catpund (CAT 504)

Bottom Left: Kebister (E55)

Top Right: Greista (ARC 1993.50)

Bottom Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7032)

Bottom Centre: Underhoull (UH10)



Type D2: Undecorated but with carinated shoulder

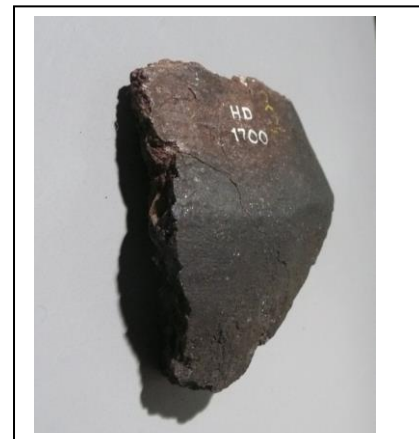


Left: Underhoull (UH H22)

Right: Kebister (B1)

Below Left: Upper Scalloway (V149)

Below Right: Benie Hoos (HD1700)



Type D3: Undecorated but burnished

Left: Upper Scalloway (US 0663)

Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7031)

Below : Mavis Grind (MG 131)



Type D4: Carinated and burnished

Left: Kebister (C76)

Right: Kebister (D22)

Below: Mavis Grind (MG 652)



Type D5 - Impressed circles and geometrical shapes



Top Left: Kebister (E259)

Top Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7031)

Below: Upper Scalloway (V740)



Type D6 - Incised curvilinear and geometric decoration



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 79146)

Top Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7939)

Below: Kebister (E184)



Type D7 - incised triangles or parallel lines



Top Left: Stray Find (ARC 1990.233)

Bottom Left: Wiltrow (ARC 65390 pot 1)

Top Right: Stray Find (ARC 6638)

Bottom Right: Wiltrow (ARC 65390 pot 8)



Type D8 - Border of incised parallel lines with vertical lines or triangles between



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 792)

Bottom Left: Kebister (C140)

Top Right: Upper Scalloway (V538)

Bottom Right: Upper Scalloway (V535)



Type D9 - Fingernail impressions (lentoid)

Below: Kebister (B3)



Type D10 - stabbed decoration with bird's feather or bone

Left: Stray Find (ARC 8872)

Right: Stanydale (EO 784)



Type D11 - 'Pie-crust' decorated rim



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7661)

Bottom Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7666)

Top Right: Underhoull (UH 160)

Bottom Right: Upper Scalloway (US V1258)



Type D12 - Applied cordon with slashes



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7673)

Bottom Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7674)

Top Right: Underhoull (UH 15)

Bottom Right: Underhoull (UH 902c)



Type D13 - Applied cordon with wavy fluting



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 768)

Top Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7659)

Below: Clickhimin (CLN 7667)



Type D14 - Multiple holes, possible strainer

Below: Upper Scalloway (V2085)



Type D15 -applied plain cordon

Left: Stray Find (ARC 65390 pot 10)

Right: Upper Scalloway (V1115)



Type D16 - incised lines with pin-prick dots

Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7612)

Right: Upper Scalloway (V667)



Type D17- Incised or dragged vertical lines over whole vessel

Below: Upper Scalloway (V2085)



Type D18 - Chevrons or herringbone

Left: Ness of Gruting (HD 934)

Right: Ness of Wiltrow ARC65390 pot 7



Type D19 - Impressed shell (cockle)

Left: Stray Find (ARC 65390 pot 10)

Right: Ness of Gruting (HD 938)



Type D20 - cord impressed

Below: Stray Find (ARC 2002.275)



Type D21 - crenellation design

Left: Clickhimin (CLN 791)

Right: Kebister (V180)



Appendix 6

Typology Sheets

Rims

Type R1: Plain rim



Top Left: Catpund (CAT 556)

Bottom Left: Kebister (E55)

Top Right: Kebister (E53)

Bottom Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7031)



Type R2: Plain Flattened



Top and bottom Left: Kebister (E10)

Top Right: Kebister (E64)

Bottom Right: Mavis Grind (MG79 1957)

Bottom centre Ness of Sound (N66)



Type R3: Plain rounded

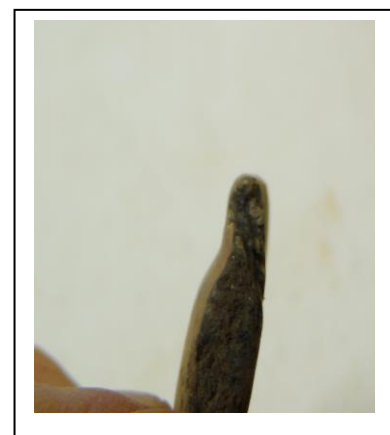


Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7030-3)

Bottom Left: Greista (ARC 1993.503
18/27)

Top Right: Underhoull (UH 132)

Bottom Right: Underhoull (UH 150)



Type R4: Plain everted



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7654)

Bottom Left: Clickhimin (CLN 79127)

Top Right: Underhoull (UH 902b)

Bottom Right: Upper Scalloway (US V1104)



Type R5: Everted and decorated



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7681)

Bottom Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7677)

Top Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7678)

Bottom Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7676)



Type R6: Everted with multiple bevelled interior



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7989)

Bottom Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7635)

Top Right: Upper Scalloway (US 2074)

Bottom Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7988)



Type R7: Plain inverted

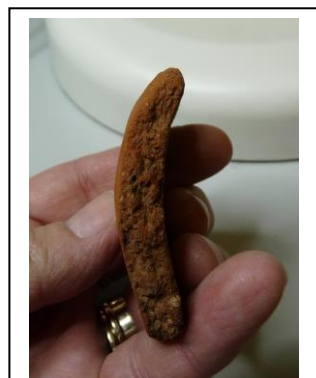


Top Left: Kebister (KB C88)

Bottom Left: Kebister (KB E53)

Top Right: Underhoull (UH 60)

Bottom Right: Upper Scalloway (US V1494)



Type R8: Rolled



Top Left: Underhoull (UH 144)

Bottom Left: Kebister (C146)

Top Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7626)

Bottom Right: Ness of Sound (N15)



Type R9: Rolled everted

Left: Upper Scalloway (US V237)

Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7621)



Type R10: Plain fluted



All images: Upper Scalloway (US 1772)



Type R11: Rolled and flattened



Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7032)

Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7618)



Type R12: Squared and T-shaped

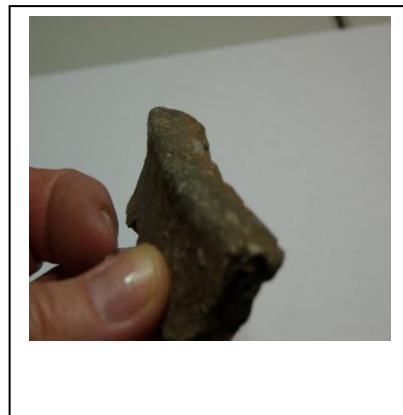


Top Left: Mavis Grind (MG79 2549)

Bottom Left: Mavis Grind (MG79 42)

Top Right: Clickhimin (CLN 7030)

Bottom Right: Mavis Grind (MG79 149)



R13: Beaded types

Both: Kebister (KB E5)



Type R14: 'Pie-crust' – applied decorated cordon



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7661)

Bottom Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7666)

Top Right: Underhoull (UH 160)

Bottom Right: Upper Scalloway (US V1258)



Type R15: Applied cordon with deep slashes



Top Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7673)

Bottom Left: Clickhimin (CLN 7674)

Top Right: Underhoull (UH 15)

Bottom Right: Underhoull (UH 902c)

